

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Protection...
Eugene V. Rostow argues that the US is duty-bound to support the Government of El Salvador.

Racket
Rex Bellamy reports from Flushing Meadow on the year's last major tennis tournament, the US championship.

Rabbit...
John Updike, creator of the celebrated "Rabbit" Angstrom, is the subject of The Times Profile, written by Malcolm Bradbury.



Punch
On the third anniversary of the agreement that legalized Solidarity, Roger Boyes in Warsaw asks whether the Polish Government will ever heed the warning of the Gdansk protesters.

Basnett warning to unions
Trade unions must recognize that Labour is no longer the automatic choice as an alternative government and they need to face "unpalatable facts" about future policies and strategy, Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trade Union, says today in his union's journal Page 2

Suicide in court
The suicide of a left-wing Turkish activist who threw himself from a Berlin courtroom window has unleashed a furor over West Germany's tough immigration policy Page 5

Crime 'ignored'
People on some London housing estates fail to report serious crimes for fear of reprisals from a "lawless minority", the Metropolitan Police Commissioner said Page 12

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The dollar surged on foreign exchange markets, but weakened in New York after the Federal Reserve Board injected \$1.5bn (£1bn) of reserves into the system Page 15

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Begin's decision to quit leaves Israel without a leader

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

An intensive and destabilizing period of political bargaining is under way in Israel to find an agreed successor to Mr Menachem Begin, the country's sixth Prime Minister, who announced yesterday beyond any remaining doubt that he is standing down.

The start of the complex process designed to find an alternative leader for the shaky Likud coalition capable of securing a parliamentary majority coincided with Israel's agreement to a second, brief postponement in the redeployment of its occupying troops in Lebanon.

The agreement to delay the pull-back - which had been scheduled to start at first light today - came after an urgent request from President Reagan transmitted by his special envoy, Mr Robert McFarlane. It was announced on Israel's army radio network, which explained only that it would be for "a very limited period".

Mr Begin's final decision to retire from political life at the age of 70 - as he first foreshadowed some six years ago - was communicated to coalition leaders during an emotional, two-hour meeting. Afterwards, one of the participants said: "It is a very sad day. But we could see there was no longer any point in trying to persuade him to stay on."

In an effort to thwart any efforts by the opposition Labour Party to put together a rival coalition, Mr Begin acceded to a request from his ministers for a short delay before handing his resignation letter to the Israeli President, Mr Chaim Herzog. It was unclear whether this will be for days or weeks.

The Likud leaders hope that the

interregnum will be sufficient for them to build a new coalition, but it was no means certain they would succeed without the invaluable political cement provided by the personality of Mr Begin - even during his last months of personal decline.

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could be found without a political struggle diminished when Mr David Levy, the deputy prime minister, announced there would be "more than one" contender. Earlier, it had been suggested by backers of the front-runner, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, that Mr Levy had agreed to a No 2 position.

At the age of 67, Mr Shamir was seen by observers as the uncharismatic stop-gap candidate who might hold the coalition together, but who would be unlikely to win many votes. Mr Levy, a Sephardic Jew, has a much more popular following but is opposed by certain coalition members whose support is vital to secure the necessary 61 votes in the 120-member Parliament.

One plan being canvassed was to restore Mr Ariel Sharon, the discredited former Defence Minister, to the chairmanship of the influential cabinet committee responsible for expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Although the Labour Party with 50 seats has more deputies than the Likud with 48, it would be powerless to form a new

government if sufficient minor parties agreed to stick by the Likud under Mr Begin's successor. To do so, they may be expected to ask for extra concessions for their own sectional and religious interests.

By last night, as the haggling got under way both in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, many Israeli commentators argued that the most likely outcome of Mr Begin's departure will be a move to bring the next general election forward from 1985 to a new date early next year.

The uncertainty which the resignation will encourage both inside Israel and in the Middle East has increased international concern about the region's immediate future. Western diplomats here found it hard to see the delay in Israel's redeployment extending beyond a few days or weeks at most.

The closeness to which the pullback had already come was shown by the fact that television cameramen selected to film the operation on a pooled basis had already been dispatched northwards. Public pressure remains intense for the redeployment to go ahead as soon as possible.

After yesterday's meeting with Mr Begin, the conviction grew that he was retiring because of mental and physical fatigue, rather than any political reason. "He told us simply that he felt he was not able to continue," explained Rabbi Shlomo Lorenz of the Agudat Israel Party. "He said that it was a personal matter, that he just could not go on."

Mr Uri Porat, the Prime Minister's press secretary, was firm that Mr Begin would be

Continued on back page, col 1

British troops under fire for first time in Lebanon

From Kate Dorrain, Beirut

The British contingent of the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut came under attack for the first time yesterday as the Lebanese Army battled against an alliance of Shia Muslim and Druze units in the third consecutive day. The French also came under fire and one soldier was killed and two others wounded, but there were no casualties among the British troops.

The attack on the British patrol happened near the Galilee Seminar crossing point between the east and west sectors of the city while Colonel David Roberts, commander of the Queen's Dragoon Guards, was driving in a Land-Rover escorted by four Ferret scout cars. The convoy was sprayed with bullets and rocket-propelled grenades, one of which exploded in front of Colonel Roberts's vehicle, according to Major Stuart Bennet, a spokesman for the British contingent.

Colonel Roberts could not be reached for comment at his headquarters in Hadatha, where electricity cuts in Beirut had disrupted telephone circuits. The British commander had been on his way to a meeting with Mr Richard Palmer, the British chargé d'affaires at the Embassy here.

Major Alain de Lestrade, spokesman for the 2,000-man

French contingent of the peacekeeping force said that unknown attackers had opened fire on a French water tanker, also near the Galilee Seminar, damaging the vehicle with what he described as "a medium or large calibre projectile".

The Reagan Administration has made clear that there will be no immediate change in the status of US participation in the Lebanon multinational peacekeeping force, despite congressional pressure to invoke the 1973 War Powers Act, which would enable the marines to be withdrawn within 60 to 90 days Page 4

Major Bennett said no one was injured in the attack. Colonel Roberts had later been informed that one of the wounded French soldiers was in need of "A" negative blood at Al Hayat hospital. In a show of military solidarity, Colonel Roberts radioed headquarters, discovered two British soldiers with the same blood type and sent them to the hospital.

On Monday, two American Marines were killed and 14 wounded in shelling and rocket attacks on Beirut airport, where the 1,200-man US Marine contingent is based. It was not clear if

the two attacks yesterday and the shelling of the airport, were related.

By Tuesday afternoon, militiamen were on top of the damaged Holiday Inn hotel near the sea front and the radio said they were sniping at Marine units stationed near the former American Embassy, which was bombed last April.

United States Navy Cobra helicopters hovered low as the sniping went on and Marines with binoculars were trying to pin down the sources of the gunfire.

For the first time, the United States aircraft carrier Eisenhower was sighted yesterday off the Beirut coast. Major Bob Jordan, a spokesman for the Marines said the vessel had been in the area for some time and had been involved in joint air-sea exercises with the Egyptians and Americans in Egypt.

He said the aircraft carrier had moved to a position closer to Beirut as "support".

Lebanese Army units in various parts of the capital were attacked and the Voice of Lebanon radio, run by the right-wing Phalangist Party, reported it had received calls from residents in west Beirut claiming militiamen had been storming homes, looting and plundering as they went along.



Mr Begin: 'No point in trying to persuade him to stay on'

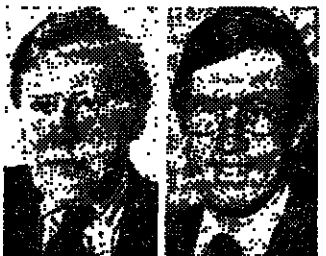
Hattersley attacks 'ticket for defeat'

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Hattersley said last night that the Labour Party would guarantee yet another general election defeat if it was stupid enough to elect a joint Kinnoch-Meagher leadership ticket at the party conference on October 2.

Mr Kinnoch's main challenger for the leadership said in an interview on Radio Clyde: "If Neil Kinnoch was elected leader and then Michael Meagher was elected deputy, there would be people who were actually saying and voting for the proposition that they didn't want a compromise within the party; they didn't want a balanced leadership; they didn't want the broad church; they wanted exclusive brethren; they wanted a very narrow view of the Labour Party's philosophy and belief."

He then added: "I don't believe that the Labour Party would be stupid enough to do that because to do that would be to throw away any chance of winning the next general election."



Mr Hattersley and Mr Meagher: Challenge is growing

Mr Hattersley's words are more remarkable because he has so far refused to rise to the deputy leadership challenge posed by Mr Meagher, preferring instead to concentrate on the contest with Mr Kinnoch for the leadership.

Mr Meagher himself said on August 10 that the so-called "dress ticket" of Mr Kinnoch and Mr Hattersley was a recipe for continued destructive internal party wrangling.

But the finality of Mr Hattersley's words, talking of the party throwing away "any chance" of winning an election puts his comments into a different political league.

Some MPs might take his views as an indication of the strength of Mr Meagher's challenge and the growing realization that Mr Hattersley faces defeat in the two contests. But, if Mr Hattersley also feels that such a result would mean the end of Labour consensus, that could raise doubts over his future role in the party.

However, in a separate interview, Mr Hattersley predicted last night that he will win the Labour leadership contest if the seven uncommitted unions follow the wishes of their members. He conceded that Mr Kinnoch is currently ahead in the race but, during an interview on Scottish Television, he refused to admit defeat. "Nobody knows who is going to win, nor will they, I think, until the evening of October 2. The sensible newspapers describe Neil Kinnoch as the front runner. He certainly is."

"But it's a long race, it's a five week race still."

Meanwhile, it became clear yesterday that Mr Meagher has taken a calculated decision to risk himself of the damaging public image that he is a political cypher of Mr Wedgwood Benn.

A number of Mr Meagher's close political colleagues were yesterday taking exception to the "hard left" and "Bennie" labels which have been applied to the deputy leadership candidate in recent weeks, seeing them as a deliberate attempt by some sections of the press to "smear" Mr Meagher by association.

He had been a close supporter and friend of Mr Benn, but that did not mean that they agreed on all things. Mr Meagher's conversion to the view that a Labour government should test public opinion on the unilateral renunciation of polaris, if necessary by referendum, was cited as an example of his political individuality.

Gunmen kill general in Santiago

Santiago (Reuters) - Unidentified gunmen yesterday shot dead the Chief Administrator of Santiago, a retired general, two days after President Augusto Pinochet lifted a state of emergency following bloody protests against military rule in Chile.

Major-General Carol Urzua, aged 57, was killed not far from his home when attackers opened fire on his car with a machine gun from the back of a pickup truck, a government statement said.

His driver and his escort were also killed in the burst of gunfire at 9.15 am in a smart suburb of Santiago. A news agency said more than 60 bullets hit the car. Police said the pickup truck was found nearby.

Police sealed off the area, threw up roadblocks and went out of Santiago and mounted special controls at the airport. Helicopters swept low over rooftops.

It was the most serious attack against a member of the armed forces since President Pinochet took power in a coup 10 years ago.

His recently appointed Interior Minister Sergio Jarpa, has begun political reforms on a small scale.

Señor Jarpa, visiting Buenos Aires, expressed "profound consternation" at the killing, but said it would not interfere with the process of gradual political liberalization.

He described the assassination as "an isolated case", which did not justify reimposing the state of emergency.

The killing was described by the Government as the work of extremist terrorist elements.

Micro boom's first victim

By Clive Cookson

Technology Correspondent

Britain's home computer boom has claimed its first corporate victim.

Grundy Business Systems, manufacturer of the NewBrain microcomputer designed originally by Sir Clive Sinclair, is to go into liquidation. Sales success last year tempted the company, which is 30 per cent state owned, to expand too fast.

"Severe cash flow problems" forced the board to recommend winding up Grundy Business Systems, Mr Anthony Wheeler, finance director, said. A creditors' meeting has been called for next week to appoint a liquidator.

NewBrain has perhaps the most chequered history of all British micros. It originated in the late 1970s as a research project in Sir Clive's former company, Sinclair Radionics.

When he left Radionics in 1979 to start his present firm, Sinclair Research, the project was transferred to Newbury Laboratories, a subsidiary of the National Enterprise Board.

The computer just missed being chosen as the BBC Micro in 1981. The BBC selected NewBrain unofficially as the machine it wanted to adopt for its education series on home computing, but at about the same time Newbury Laboratories decided to concentrate on manufacturing peripherals (printers and disc drives) and it sold NewBrain to Grundy.

During that period of uncertainty the BBC gave the contract instead to Acorn Computers, for whom the BBC Micro has proved a great success.

Grundy Business Systems, a company owned 70 per cent by the private Grundy Group and 30 per cent by the government's British Technology Group, finally launched NewBrain in May, 1982, with a price tag of £199 and "the confident claim of being the most powerful hand-held microcomputer in the world."

NewBrain was an immediate success, with demand running ahead of supply, and by January this year it had become one of Britain's most popular micros, selling up to 5,000 a month.

On the basis of that success Grundy made what turned out to be the fatal mistake of expanding production rapidly to meet an anticipated NewBrain boom this year.

Sales declined and the slump was made worse by the company's delay in delivering a promised disc system that would have given NewBrain users access to far more software.

Mr Wheeler remained optimistic last night that the company could still find a buyer. "On the basis of the product I think we have a very good chance," he said. "But time is running out. Someone would have to be found within the next two to three weeks."

NewBrain was assembled under contract by Thorn-EMI at its Detatch factory in Feltham, west London. Grundy Business Systems directly employs only about 30 people at its two bases in Cambridge and Teddington. Most of them will be laid off today.

UN chief in London for Falklands talks

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN Secretary General, arrived in London yesterday and will have talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, on the future of the Falkland Islands when they meet today for the first time.

However, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar is unlikely to get any change out of Sir Geoffrey before next month's debate at the UN General Assembly in New York.

The Secretary General has been mandated by the General Assembly to help to find a solution to the issue of sovereignty. Argentina is eager for him to intervene, according to UN sources, and he is now exploring the British position.

The Foreign Office reacted coolly to Argentina's call for a resumption of talks earlier this month and is likely to make a similar response today, pointing out that no negotiations can be contemplated at least until Argentina announces a formal end to hostilities.

Officials expect no more than an exchange of views rather than an initiative from either side. The meeting is at the suggestion of Sir Geoffrey who is anxious to hear details of the Secretary General's five-day visit to southern Africa from which he has just returned. During the visit he tried to find ways towards a settlement on the long-running dispute over Namibia.

Closure threat to six colleges

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Six colleges are threatened with closure in cuts recommended yesterday by a Government advisory body, but their names are to remain secret unless the colleges declare their involvement.

The plan for polytechnics and colleges, which are funded by local councils, has been drawn up over the past 11 months by officers of the National Advisory Body (NAB) for local authority higher education. It is the first time that such an exercise has been conducted, and it is seen as an attempt to do in the public sector what was done two years ago in the universities.

It reveals shifts from the humanities, which are to receive less money and fewer students in 1984, towards mathematics and

science courses. London and the south east are penalized in favour of the rest of the country.

Officers have also recommended a movement from degree to sub-degree courses, and have signalled a build-up in part-time students - up to 4,000 full-time equivalents - next year.

Details of the plan, and about how each polytechnic and college would fare assuming a 10 per cent in funding, were received by more than 200 institutions yesterday. An extra letter was sent to "some half-dozen or so" colleges which Mr Christopher Ball, chairman of NAB's board and warden of Keele College, Oxford, said were in jeopardy.

Comments have to be received by September 19. The plan goes to the NAB board in October and

the NAB committee in November before being submitted to the Secretary of state for education.

The officers say they took into account such factors as whether a subject was needed, regional demands, quality and cost-effectiveness.

The Inner London Education Authority said strenuous representations would be made because it did not accept any of the NAB's calculations.

Mr Neil Stewart, president of the National Union of Students, said the NUS would, if necessary, challenge in court the Council for Academic Awards' power to validate courses in colleges as being of the same standard as those in universities in the light of the proposed cuts.

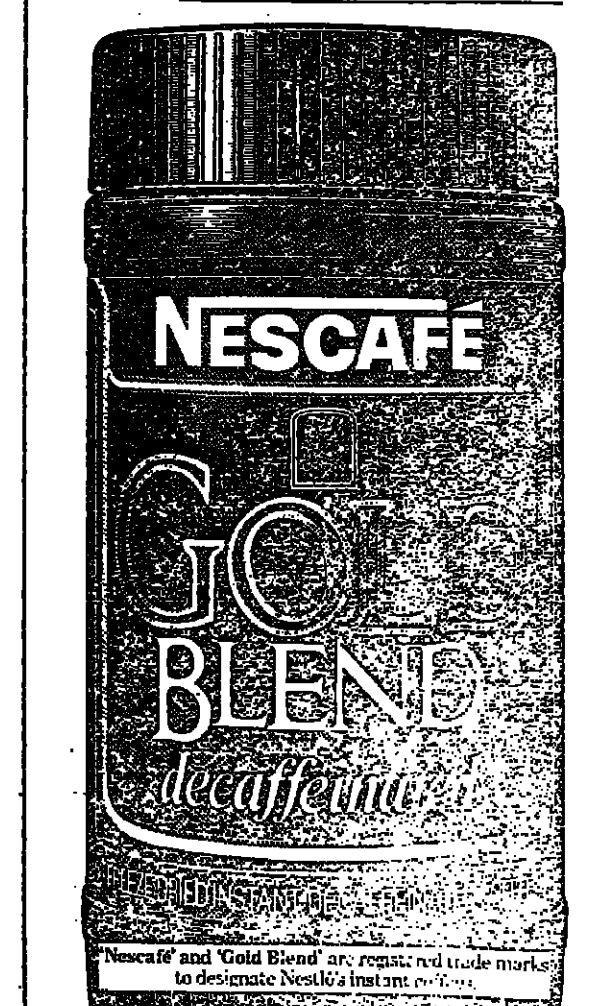
Threat to blow up hijacked jet over Iraq

Tehran (AFP, Reuters) - The hijackers of an Air France Boeing 737 grounded at Tehran Airport announced last night that they planned to take off and blow the aircraft up over Iraq, Iranian television said. It gave no further details.

Earlier, Iran granted the four Arabic-speaking gunmen permission to leave, the national news agency said quoting a Foreign Ministry source.

The crew and 17 passengers - including one Briton, Mr Martin Leach who works for the United Nations Development Programme - were said to be in good condition.

There's only one decaffeinated coffee that tastes as good as Gold Blend.



Labour government not automatic alternative, unions told by Basnett

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Trade unions have been warned by a union leader that they must recognize that Labour is no longer the automatic choice as an alternative government and that they need to face up to the "unpalatable facts" about future policies and strategy.

The warning, delivered on the eve of the TUC Congress in Blackpool, comes from Mr David Basnett, general secretary of the General, Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, and the key figure in the links between the two wings of the labour movement.

An exposition by Mr Basnett on the union movement's need to rethink its objectives and economic policy is contained in his union's journal published today. He says that the challenge to the unions' traditional role is not just coming from hostile government and employers "but also from our own members."

Referring to the political reality that the movement has to face Mr Basnett says: "In all the past years we have been dealing with a Labour Party which is either in government or the obvious and only alternative government. Whatever our problems the next government would be a Labour government. That assumption was destroyed in the tragic electoral defeat in June."

"At the moment we cannot presume the outcome of the next election. We cannot therefore put as many eggs in the basket of legislative change after the next election as we have tended to do



Mr Basnett: "Unpalatable political facts"

reestablish our philosophy, our influence on governments and the certainty of the return of a Labour government. Our policies and our commitments were not wrong but they have to be adjusted and modified in the light of the new and harsher economic, social and political reality."

Mr Basnett emphasizes that the union movement can hold out little hope of legislative action on issues such as low pay, shorter working hours and fringe benefits, and instead the movement had to coordinate bargaining objectives to take account of the new position.

A key element of union policy had to be to educate their members that the movement's overall philosophy was correct. "It is a massive task of education and of positive propaganda to overcome the new consensus which the Thatcherites have latched on to, a consensus of minimum government interference and minimum redistributive taxation," he writes.

The unions also win members over again to the long-established argument that the labour movement had a role to play in influencing policy-making. Mr Basnett finds it disturbing that "the legitimacy of that role is not acknowledged by a large proportion of our members."

"The role of trade unions as a major political force and as an instrument of social change is denied by far too many of our members," he writes.

Government 'apathy' on PIE criticized

By David Nicholson-Lord

Mr Charles Oxley, the Liverpool headmaster who "infiltrated" the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) and later supplied the information to detectives at Scotland Yard, last night criticized the Government's "apathetic" approach to the case.

Mr Oxley said that the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police had failed to allocate enough police time to the case or give it a high enough priority. "It is hopeless," he added. "They have been very dilatory." Mrs Margaret Thatcher should take a strong lead on the issue, he said.

The Director of Public Prosecutions said yesterday that the file on the case, on which investigation by the Yard's obscene publications squad began last year, was being assessed by counsel but it was not known when a decision on prosecution would be taken. A new report was submitted by Scotland Yard investigators into PIE, whose members advocate sexual relations with children, have been conducted by only two officers, one of them part-time on the case, according to Mr Oxley.

He said: "This is a matter of

great public concern. Young children all over the country are being seriously assaulted by people who are campaigning to make it legal.

"I would like to see Mrs Thatcher taking a strong lead and saying to the new Home Secretary that a dreadful situation exists, that we have just about reached rock-bottom with the ill-treatment of children and that something must be done."

The DPP's office said yesterday that reports of a long list of names of those allegedly involved in PIE were misleading, as were claims that there was a "brand-new dossier" on the case.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, yesterday received the two reports which he had ordered on the activities of the Paedophile Information Exchange, from the Metropolitan Police, and on the kidnapping and sexual assault of a young Brighton boy on August 14, from the Sussex force. (Our Political Correspondent writes.)

But it was suggested last night that no precipitate view should be expected from the Home Office on the question of legislation to be taken against the paedophile campaign.

Miners fail to halt pit closure

The National Coal Board has

told miners' representatives that their plan to save Lymington Colliery in Northumberland will not work and the board has repeated its intention to close the mine.

Although miners' leaders said they would continue to fight, they now seem to have little chance of stopping a shutdown at the pit, which employs almost 1,100 men.

Mr Denis Murphy, president of the Northumberland miners, said men had been attracted by the board's "prizes of silver" - a reference to transfer payments of up to £1,550 offered to miners who agree to switch to Ellington Colliery, less than a mile from Lymington.

At Ellington, which, with Lymington, forms the biggest undersea mining complex in the world, the men will also have a chance of earning bigger bonuses.

About 420 men will be transferred to Ellington before the end of the year if the miners agree to the closure while 200 will be kept at Lymington for salvage and maintenance work. The remainder will go through early retirement and voluntary redundancy.

The board said jobs would be available at Ellington for men who wanted to move.

A picket outside Highlands Fabricators oil platform yard at Nigg yesterday blocked attempts to restart production for the second day running. Despite strong police presence only half a dozen workers decided to brave the picket line. A management attempt to get workers through a back entrance was also foiled.

The area, moved in quickly. They were keeping under surveillance a yacht that had recently arrived from the Caribbean. When the holidaymaker reported his "catch" to police the customs officers moved in and three men, two Britons and a New Zealander, were detained.

Cocaine smugglers foiled

Plans to smuggle into Britain cocaine with a street value of £500,000 were foiled after a holidaymaker fishing off north Cornwall hooked and landed a container holding 2½ kilograms of the drug.

Customs and Excise officers, who had been keeping watch in

Former Sea Lord attacks Nott's cuts

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, the former First Sea Lord, yesterday attacked Sir John Nott's defence review of 1981 as "ill-conceived".

Sir Henry, who retired last year after organizing the dispatch of the Falklands task force, said measures to improve the Fleet's defences against Exocet-type sea-skimming missiles had been cancelled in the cuts.

Writing in the latest issue of *Air Pictorial*, he said: "True, they could not have been in service in the Fleet by the time the Falklands crisis came to a head, but the irrational slashing of the Navy's capability (since rephrased by guilty men as 'reshaping' the Navy) coupled with the decision to scrap the fleet's fleet of HMS Endeavour (the ice-patrol ship) could only be interpreted as an earnest of disinterest in the South Atlantic."

Sir Henry said that most newly emergent nations wanted "shiny new technology in their military weapons systems and can afford to pay for it: those responsible for UK defence need to bear this in mind."

He added that "it is a sad reflection" that it took 16 years

and "a sharp war" to convince "people who should have known better" of the importance to the Fleet of early warning planes.

● Criticism by the editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships* about the strength of the Royal Navy was rejected yesterday by Lord Trefgarne, Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces.

He said of Captain John Moore, the editor: "The captain is grinding an axe, complaining that we do not have enough battle ships or destroyers. But we have to cut our cloth according to our means... The strength of the Navy is in accordance with the threat as assessed by those in the hot seat."

The Royal Navy's ships, which since the Second World War have traditionally been painted black below the water-line, are to become plum-coloured after the introduction of a new type of paint developed by International Paint of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The paint is described as being self-polishing, and it contains a compound which is toxic to marine organisms. There should be no loss of speed or range resulting from the growth of the organisms.

Empty jewelry boxes scattered on burglar's trail

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

A trail of discarded jewel boxes was left scattered along the escape route of the burglars who stole jewelry worth £800,000 last weekend from the Sussex country home of a Jordanian businessman. It was disclosed yesterday.

The boxes, found on the A3 between Petersfield and Godalming, were apparently thrown from a car shortly after they had been taken from the home of Mr Taj Hajjar at Fyning Hill, West Sussex, late on Saturday night or early on Sunday morning with 51 items of jewelry.

The robbery, one of the biggest of a country home in Britain,

succeeded despite security guards, close circuit television, alarms and dogs guarding 1,000 acres of grounds.

The burglar managed to evade them, possibly because of the sheer size of the grounds. When he reached the main house it was thought that he scaled the wall to a window of a first-floor bedroom which he entered. At the time it was understood the security systems were not fully operational because the house was occupied.

The burglar swiftly collected the jewelry, ranging from watches worth a few thousand pounds to a string of pearls worth

£130,000, and slipped away on the A3 heading northwards towards London, he is believed to have sorted out the jewelry, possibly as an accomplice drove, throwing the boxes out of the car's window.

The first was found on Sunday by a man walking his dog and yesterday the police had identified another two, including one had contained the £130,000 necklace. A search of the verges had also uncovered other items which had yet to be identified by the Hajjar family.

The boxes will be examined for possible fingerprints and other

forensic evidence although the police believe that they are dealing with a thoroughly professional burglar. The crime has been compared with a number of other recent country house break-ins which have led to speculation about a highly successful "Raffles" touring the country in search of targets.

Yesterday, Sussex police refused to be drawn on any comparisons but details of other cases.

A reward of 10 per cent of the value of the jewelry has been offered by Summers, Henderson Tyler, a firm of loss adjusters

Belfast offenders' centre damaged

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Damage estimated at thousands of pounds was caused when inmates at a young offenders' centre on the outskirts of Belfast went on the rampage during the prison officers' rostered overtime ban.

Extra police were drafted into the centre to assist RUC officers already on duty because of the dispute. The trouble broke out during evening lock-up on Monday.

Several youths had to be moved to other rooms after bedrooms in the accommodation area were severely damaged. Mr John Hall, secretary of the prison officers' association, yesterday claimed that prison warders arriving for work discovered 19 youngsters handcuffed in the dining area.

No one was injured in the disturbances and the Northern Ireland Office said repairs had started. Most inmates were expected to be able to return to their rooms by last night.

Elsewhere in the province, prison officers were back on duty after their 24-hour overtime ban, although Mr Hall claimed that 120 were turned away from the Crumlin Road and Maze prisons when they reported for duty yesterday.

Hopes recede of end to flag-flying dispute

An attempt to end a dispute over the flying of a Union flag, which has led to the closure of a Northern Ireland factory, has failed. Hopes of the plant reopening are receding.

The dispute is between Roman Catholic and Protestant employees at Moy Meat in Co. Armagh. Attempts at conciliation ended yesterday with confirmation that insufficient members of the workforce had backed a compromise proposal to fly the flag between July 1 and July 14, just over half the workforce replied to the management proposal.

Computer games help maths

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Computer games of the kind found in amusement arcades and played in schools are improving children's grasp of mathematics, according to the conclusions of a 12-month survey by Mr Trevor Fletcher, a school inspector (HMI) who has studied the impact of microcomputers on mathematics teaching.

His report is published today by the Department of Education and Science as a discussion paper for teachers.

Mr Fletcher says an increasing number of children are so enthusiastic they are arriving well before their school is open and remaining until the caretaker clears the building. Although all ages are involved, there are far more boys than girls among the enthusiasts.

The report shows important changes in the way mathematics ideas are being taught, with many youngsters discovering an enjoyment they did not have before.

Games programs often involve techniques well beyond O level computer studies courses, yet juniors and even infants have no difficulty in operating microcomputers. They can get the machine started, load magnetic tapes carrying programs into cassettes and overcome minor problems without needing to consult the teacher.

Children are good at helping one another and clearly take pride in their adroitness with this new equipment.

The most ambitious mathematical activity seen in primary schools arose from the use of the programming language LOGO, a part of which was concerned with "turtle geometry", enabling a cursor to be moved around the screen by various commands to draw patterns.

The children learn how sets of commands can be grouped together as one instruction (in the programming jargon, a subprogram) so that they can generate very elaborate patterns with a manageable number of commands.

Whitehall unions in youth scheme talks

By Our Labour Correspondent

Civil Service union leaders will meet senior Whitehall officials this morning to discuss details of a programme for 4,000 young people under the Youth Training Scheme after a lifting of union restrictions.

Union officials will press the Manpower and Personnel Office, which is to implement the scheme in government departments, for a series of guarantees on extra manpower to train the young people and for an increase in the £25 a week allowance to be paid to trainees.

A meeting of senior leaders of the Council of Civil Service Unions, the umbrella body for the nine unions, yesterday authorized the discussions with the Government despite strong reservations by at least two unions.

The Civil and Public Services Association, the biggest union, is bound by a left-sponsored decision of its annual conference not to cooperate with the scheme. The Society of Civil and Public Servants' left wing leadership has put several conditions on its cooperation.

Both unions' positions are expected to be modified, however, and there was feeling in Whitehall that there would be union acquiescence to the YTS schemes, even though the Government was unlikely to meet all the conditions set by the unions.

The Government was anxious to win union agreement for talks which it hopes will lead to agreement on the national £1,000 YTS, which starts tomorrow, due to come into full operation next week. It would have been

embarrassing if the Government was unable to organize the scheme in its own departments.

● An appeal for changes to prevent the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) excluding large numbers of handicapped school-leavers was made yesterday by Mr Alfred Morris, Labour MP for Manchester, Wythenshawe, and former Minister for the Disabled (Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent, writes).

He said that it was absurd that the future of many disabled young people would be ruined by the inflexibility of the new scheme, when so few able-bodied teenagers were applying for the 460,000 available places.

The new scheme offers training places for school-leavers aged 16 and 17, but unemployed disabled young people aged up to 18 will also be eligible. But since many handicapped young people lose some schooling for a variety of reasons, they may remain at school until they are aged 19.

Mr Morris demanded a ministerial statement on the issue before the Commons rose for the summer recess, and was assured "instant" attention by Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House. But Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said in a letter responding to that request and released by Mr Morris yesterday, that he will not change the rules, at least until after they are reviewed this autumn.

Mr Tebbit said in his letter that efforts and resources must be concentrated on meeting the guarantee of an early offer of a place to all unemployed 16-year-old school leavers.

Rapist may have struck third time

A rapist whose military-style underground lair was found in a South London wood may have struck a third time and police fear his latest victim may be dead. Items of clothing were found after a woman's screams were heard early yesterday.

More than 100 officers searched the area and dragged a local pond, but nothing was found. Police are worried that if there was an attack the woman was either killed, or too scared to report the incident.

A couple heard a woman's screams in Lessness Park, Upper Belvedere, Bexley, near where two other women were assaulted recently. They called the police and two officers saw a man running away but lost him in the dark.

Police found two hideouts last week in woodland near the scene of yesterday's search. They believe they were used by a man they have been looking for about two, earlier sex attacks. One hideout was an underground chamber built with they describe as "military-style."

CND urges Polaris negotiations

By Nicholas Timmins

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament urged the Government yesterday to include Britain's Polaris missiles in the Geneva disarmament talks, in response to the Soviet Union's offer to "liquidate" Soviet SS20 missiles.

President Andropov has offered to destroy a number of missiles, so that the numbers deployed in European Russia match the number of British and French missiles, providing Nato does not deploy cruise and Pershing later this year.

In a letter to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, Mrs Joan Ruddock, CND's chairman, said the British system should be counted into the Geneva talks.

Although Nato has always argued that the British and French systems are strategic rather than intermediate weapons, and are independent, Mrs Ruddock said: "It is inconceivable that the United States would not include 'independent' nuclear forces if such were held by Hungary or Czechoslovakia."

Nunn disputes lead with Russian grandmaster

By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

At the end of round seven in the Lloyds Bank Masters tournament in London two grandmasters, John Nunn of England and the Russian player Razuvayev, were leading with 6 points each. Nunn won with some ease against Levitt, who lost control of the central files and thereby exposed his king to a devastating attack.

Razuvayev was equally severe against Wicker and won in 30 moves, just as Nunn had done.

Surprisingly the Argentine grandmaster Quinteros lost for the second time in succession and must be now completely out of the race as regards the leading prizes. The Israeli master, Murcy, also lost, to Cummings, in 48 moves, and is so doing left out of the struggle for a leading place.

The leading scores are: Nunn and Razuvayev 6, Cummings and King 5½, Kosten and Matanovic 5 and one, adjourned, Britton,

Overseas selling prices
America: 20c, 25c, 30c, 35c, 40c, 45c, 50c, 55c, 60c, 65c, 70c, 75c, 80c, 85c, 90c, 95c, 1.00, 1.05, 1.10, 1.15, 1.20, 1.25, 1.30, 1.35, 1.40, 1.45, 1.50, 1.55, 1.60, 1.65, 1.70, 1.75, 1.80, 1.85, 1.90, 1.95, 2.00, 2.05, 2.10, 2.15, 2.20, 2.25, 2.30, 2.35, 2.40, 2.45, 2.50, 2.55, 2.60, 2.65, 2.70, 2.75, 2.80, 2.85, 2.90, 2.95, 3.00, 3.05, 3.10, 3.15, 3.20, 3.25, 3.30, 3.35, 3.40, 3.45, 3.50, 3.55, 3.60, 3.65, 3.70, 3.75, 3.80, 3.85, 3.90, 3.95, 4.00, 4.05, 4.10, 4.15, 4.20, 4.25, 4.30, 4.35, 4.40, 4.45, 4.50, 4.55, 4.60, 4.65, 4.70, 4.75, 4.80, 4.85, 4.90, 4.95, 5.00, 5.05, 5.10, 5.15, 5.20, 5.25, 5.30, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.50, 5.55, 5.60, 5.65, 5.70, 5.75, 5.80, 5.85, 5.90, 5.95, 6.00, 6.05, 6.10, 6.15, 6.20, 6.25, 6.30, 6.35, 6.40, 6.45, 6.50, 6.55, 6.60, 6.65, 6.70, 6.75, 6.80, 6.85, 6.90, 6.95, 7.00, 7.05, 7.10, 7.15, 7.20, 7.25, 7.30, 7.35, 7.40, 7.45, 7.50, 7.55, 7.60, 7.65, 7.70, 7.75, 7.80, 7.85, 7.90, 7.95, 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15, 8.20, 8.25, 8.30, 8.35, 8.40, 8.45, 8.50, 8.55, 8.60, 8.65, 8.70, 8.75, 8.80, 8.85, 8.90, 8.95, 9.00, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 9.60, 9.65, 9.70, 9.75, 9.80, 9.85, 9.90, 9.95, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 10.60, 10.65, 10.70, 10.75, 10.80, 10.85, 10.90, 10.95, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 11.60, 11.65, 11.70, 11.75, 11.80, 11.85, 11.90, 11.95, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 12.60, 12.65, 12.70, 12.75, 12.80, 12.85, 12.90, 12.95, 13.00, 13.05, 13.10, 13.15, 13.20, 13.25, 13.30, 13.35, 13.40, 13.45, 13.50, 13.55, 13.60, 13.65, 13.70, 13.75, 13.80, 13.85, 13.90, 13.95, 14.00, 14.05, 14.10, 14.15, 14.20, 14.25, 14.30, 14.35, 14.40, 14.45, 14.50, 14.55, 14.60, 14.65, 14.70, 14.75, 14.80, 14.85, 14.90, 14.95, 15.00, 15.05, 15.10, 15.15, 15.20, 15.25, 15.30, 15.35, 15.40, 15.45, 15.50, 15.55, 15.60, 15.65, 15.70, 15.75, 15.80, 15.85, 15.90, 15.95, 16.00, 16.05, 16.10, 16.15, 16.20, 16.25, 16.30, 16.35, 16.40, 16.45, 16.50, 16.55, 16.60, 16.65, 16.70, 16.75, 16.80, 16.85, 16.90, 16.95, 17.00, 17.05, 17.10, 17.15, 17.20, 17.25, 17.30, 17.35, 17.40, 17.45, 17.50, 17.55, 17.60, 17.65, 17.70, 17.75, 17.80, 17.85, 17.90, 17.95, 18.00, 18.05, 18.10, 18.15, 18.20, 18.25, 18.30, 18.35, 18.40, 18.45, 18.50, 18.55, 18.60, 18.65, 18.70, 18.75, 18.80, 18.85, 18.90, 18.95, 19.00, 19.05, 19.10, 19.15, 19.20, 19.25, 19.30, 19.35, 19.40, 19.45, 19.50, 19.55, 19.60, 19.65, 19.70, 19.75, 19.80, 19.85, 19.90, 19.95, 20.00, 20.05, 20.10, 20.15, 20.20, 20.25, 20.30, 20.35, 20.40, 20.45, 20.50, 20.55, 20.60, 20.65, 20.70, 20.75, 20.80, 20.85, 20.90, 20.95, 21.00, 21.05, 21.10, 21.15, 21.20, 21.25, 21.30, 21.35, 21.40, 21.45, 21.50, 21.55, 21.60, 21.65, 21.70, 21.75, 21.80, 21.85, 21.90, 21.95, 22.00, 22.05, 22.10, 22.15, 22.20, 22.25, 22.30, 22.35, 22.40, 22.45, 22.50, 22.55, 22.60, 22.65, 22.70, 22.75, 22.80, 22.85, 22.90, 22.95, 23.00, 23.05, 23.10, 23.15, 23.20, 23.25, 23.30, 23.35, 23.40, 23.45, 23.50, 23.55, 23.60, 23.65, 23.70, 23.75, 23.80, 23.85, 23.90, 23.95, 24.00, 24.05, 24.10, 24.15, 24.20, 24.25, 24.30, 24.35, 24.40, 24.45, 24.50, 24.55, 24.60, 24.65, 24.70, 24.75, 24.80, 24.85, 24.90, 24.95, 25.00, 25.05, 25.10, 25.15, 25.20, 25.25, 25.30, 25.35, 25.40, 25.45, 25.50, 25.55, 25.60, 25.65, 25.70, 25.75, 25.80, 25.85, 25.90, 25.95, 26.00, 26.05, 26.10, 26.15, 26.20, 26.25, 26.30, 26.35, 26.40, 26.45, 26.50, 26.55, 26.60, 26.65, 26.70, 26.75, 26.80, 26.85, 26.90, 26.95, 27.00, 27.05, 27.10, 27.15, 27.20, 27.25, 27.30, 27.35, 27.40, 27.45, 27.50, 27.55, 27.60, 27.65, 27.70, 27.75, 27.80, 27.85, 27.90, 27.95, 28.00, 28.05, 28.10, 28.15, 28.20, 28.25, 28.30, 28.35, 28.40, 28.45, 28.50, 28.55, 28.60, 28.65, 28.70, 28.75, 28.80, 28.85, 28.90, 28.95, 29.00, 29.05, 29.10, 29.15, 29.20, 29.25, 29.30, 29.35, 29.40, 29.45, 29.50, 29.55, 29.60, 29.65, 29.70, 29.75, 29.80, 29.8

Ferment on the subcontinent

Unions muted but lawyers add their weight to anti-Zia protest

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

A 28-year-old woman wearing a blue outfit and a ring in her nose stood outside the Sessions Court in Karachi yesterday lunchtime yelling anti-government slogans.

"No talks with Zia", she shouted. "When the Army is in politics the country is in disgrace. To call Zia a dog is to insult a dog. Zia is a blackmailer. Zia is a robber. Zia is a usurper."

She was led away by a group of women police and sat in the front seat of a police van as it roared her off to prison. Gulzar Begum, mother of two small boys was not the first woman to be arrested in the present campaign against the military regime in Pakistan, nor is she the first trade union leader to be imprisoned.

She is president of a progressive union at the Pakistan Steel Mills. She is also a symbol of what the campaign needs if it is to maintain sufficient momentum to make any important change to the plans of the Government for a gradual return to an elected democracy on a constitutionally revised constitution.

It is now 16 days since the civil disobedience campaign was launched

by a coalition of eight outlawed political parties, but the Government has not budged. That there is a good deal of deeply hostile feeling towards the martial law regime of General Zia ul-Haq has been amply demonstrated, but over most of the country the expressions of that discontent have been either purely symbolic or easily contained by the authorities.

Even in Karachi where the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) held its first big demonstration on Independence Day on August 14, the crowds watching political figures courting arrest have been dwindling, and the reaction to the arrests has been low key.

If the movement could encourage more people like Gulzar Begum, if the trade unions could be persuaded to step off the sidelines into the mainstream of the movement, it would provide a much needed nudge to the decelerating handwagon.

An effort in this direction will be made on Saturday when lawyers from bar associations around the country will meet to plan their future action. Lawyers in Lahore yesterday undertook a procession of protest on that day, with each lawyer in his black

cotton coat carrying a copy of the 1973 Constitution.

The biggest outbreaks of unrest have been largely confined to the rural interior of Sind province, where violence is as much a part of politics as of any other human activity.

"When a man gets a large sum of money in these parts he does one of three things", a government official from the northern part of the province said. "He goes to Karachi and buys a video, or gets married - and they get married many times - or he pays to have someone killed. After a good harvest here the murder rate sometimes goes up to about 10 a day."

With such violent attitudes it has come as no surprise that the political protest in Sind has produced a good deal of mayhem. But even there the protesters are beginning to feel that the rest of the country is letting them down. If that feeling grows it will inevitably lead to calls for Sindha Deth - an independent Sind.

The governor for the MRD in the northern country town of Lakarsa, Mr Ahmed Ali Saeed, a lawyer aged 24, said: "If the Punjabis will not go against Zia we Sindhis will do our own politics. There will be no more Pakistan politics."

Bombs greet Gandhi's son in Assam

Delhi (Reuters) - Two bombs exploded in Assam when Mr Rajiv Gandhi, aged 39, the politician son of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, made a quick visit to the troubled north-east Indian state yesterday.

Shops and offices in the capital, Gauhati, and some other parts of the Brahmaputra Valley state were closed for the second day as part of a 36-hour strike called by anti-immigrant hardliners to coincide with Mr Gandhi's trip.

The two explosions, one on Monday night and the other yesterday morning, raised the total across the state to five since Sunday.

The bombs and strike appeared to be the first serious anti-Government action since widespread violence last February and

March when 3,000 people were killed and more than 300,000 were made homeless.

The Press Trust of India said that only one person was injured in the latest attacks and there were no reports of any group claiming responsibility.

The agency said the first bomb exploded at a state transport corporation workshop in Nowgong, 60 miles east of Gauhati, injuring the night watchman. The other was also in the Nowgong district at a station.

The news agency gave no details of damage but a bomb on Monday damaged a stretch of railway track in the same district and it appeared the attackers were going for transport systems.

Mr Hiteswar Saikia, the Chief Minister of Assam, has said he

believes the bombers are linked to extremist groups in neighbouring north-east Indian states who have hideouts across the border in Burma.

The agency said Mr Gandhi, who is one of five secretary-generals of the Congress (I) Party, which rules India, received a rousing reception at Gauhati airport.

He later flew by helicopter to Borbori in Nowgong district, which was one of the worst affected areas during the February massacres when whole villages were wiped out.

Mr Gandhi, who many politicians believe is being groomed by his mother as her heir apparent, was later due to address a meeting of the Congress Party's youth wing in Gauhati.

August talks a measure of crisis



Before the battle: Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, confers with Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, before the EEC meeting in Brussels.

Britain finds surprise ally in EEC budget battle

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The largest ever meeting of EEC ministers yesterday sat round an overcast table in Brussels to wrestle with the largest problem ever to face the Community - how to prevent it from going bankrupt.

It was a warming-up session in what threatens to be the toughest series of negotiations since the EEC was created. Central to the discussion was how much of the cost of running the Community should be borne by Britain.

Little was expected from the meeting, but the mere fact that 35 ministers from 10 countries were prepared to travel to Brussels in August was an important sign that every member is prepared to work towards a successful conclusion before the next European summit in Athens in December.

The three British ministers present, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, and Mr Michael Jopling, the Agriculture minister, all pressed Britain's case for strict control of farm spending, which is eating up two-thirds of the total budget.

Mr Lawson set out Britain's view that there had to be a restrictive price policy for agricultural products which would act as a brake on production. He proposed that farm spending should not be allowed to grow each year by more than an agreed fraction.

It was an idea to which only the Dutch gave full-hearted support although West Germany also showed that it was seeking a way of holding back agricultural spending.

The most unexpected and significant contribution came from Denmark, which has until now been almost isolated in refusing to accept that change is necessary. It put forward a paper agreeing that the British problem had to be solved and suggesting the creation of a special fund.

It was not an idea which Britain could endorse outright, but the fact that the most implacable opponent to EEC change was now prepared to put forward ideas for change showed how conscious every country had become of the need to negotiate a settlement.

S African law limiting black students shelved

Cape Town (AFP) - South Africa yesterday postponed plans to limit the number of blacks entering universities mainly reserved for whites.

A law requiring black students to seek ministerial permission for enrolment in a white university was passed by Parliament last June in the face of strong opposition from rectors of English-speaking faculties, the opposition Progressive Federal Party and anti-apartheid bodies.

Education Minister Dr Gerrie Viljoen said yesterday that despite the decision to postpone applying the new law, black students in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Ophthalmology, Pharmacy, para-medical subjects and Agriculture would continue to be assigned primarily to the universities in the black "homelands".

Dr Viljoen justifies this measure by recalling the large investment which he said had been made in teaching these subjects in the black colleges.

The Education Minister said that entry qualifications to English-speaking universities would bar the same proportion of blacks, Coloured (mixed-race) and Asians as government-imposed quotas.

The Afrikaans universities had promised to take only between 100 and 400 non-white students in the coming academic year.

Infection risk to Chad troops

Ndjamena (AP) - The survival rate among soldiers with abdominal injuries sustained in the civil war in Chad is "absolute zero," according to Lieutenant Commander René Jancovici, a French Navy doctor who is the only trained surgeon practising in the Chad capital.

Those seriously injured in the battle for the northern outpost of Faya-Largeau were flown to the hospital in Ndjamena, a near-desert group of buildings in the heart of the war-shattered city.

"They lay in the 50°C (122°F) heat for up to five days without any kind of first aid before being evacuated," Commander Jancovici said. "I received 223 seriously hurt soldiers with all kinds of head, chest and limb injuries."

"But there was not a single abdominal injury among them, because anyone unfortunate enough to be struck in the abdomen in that heat and filth and without medical attention was dead within hours."

The hospital itself is not a model of hygiene, either. All the toilets are smashed and unusable, and flies and malaria-bearing mosquitos hover over rubbish and excrement in the yard.

There are not enough beds for the hundreds of patients - civilians as well as soldiers. Many of the military casualties from Faya-Largeau had injuries caused by pellet fragmentation and phosphorous bombs dropped in the drebombing attacks of the Libyan Air Force, Commander Jancovici said.

The injuries of every battle casualty brought to the hospital were badly infected, he said. "Four of them had amputations which they had performed on themselves - for example, of gangrenous open fractures - without anaesthetics, instruments or help of any kind."

Stone's shuttle frustrated again

From Martha Honey, San Jose, Costa Rica

Mr Richard Stone, President Reagan's special envoy to Central America, is due to return to the Colombian capital, Bogotá, after an abortive 24-hour stay here in which he failed to hold a substantive meeting with Salvadoran revolutionary leaders.

A spokeswoman for the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) the political wing of the Salvadoran guerrilla military organization, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), said that they were still trying to arrange a meeting.

The US envoy and the FDR-FMLN delegation, which is headed by Dr Guillermo Ungo, president of the FDR, held separate meetings on Monday night with President Alberto Monge of Costa Rica, who has been trying to mediate.

Mr Stone had arrived here late on Monday from El Salvador, refusing to state whether he planned negotiations with the Salvadoran left. At least three top FDR-FMLN leaders are reported to have gathered secretly

Superpower role sought in forum on Palestine

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

A UN-organized international conference to seek a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli confrontation was suggested yesterday by Mr Faruk Kaddumi, director of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political department. Both superpowers should take part, he said.

He told the UN conference on the Question of Palestine in Geneva that as a means of inducing Israel to agree, the UN should adopt measures for bringing pressure, including sanctions. The PLO refused to believe there was no hope for a political solution based on the efforts of the international community.

The present situation was potentially a greater tragedy for the Jews than for the Palestinians, the former becoming identified with an arrogant policy of aggression. The popular progressive movement within Israel indicated growing awareness of this. Even in Zionist institutions, individuals were critical of what the Begin Government had done.

The Palestinians totally rejected the Reagan plan. "How can they ask us to accept a plan depriving us of the right of self-determination?" he asked. Mr Kaddumi said Israel had taken advantage of the focus on

Judgment in Thornhill case today

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Six white Zimbabwe Air Force officers are due to file into the High Court this morning for the final phase of the Thornhill sabotage trial. The outcome could have long-term consequences for Zimbabwe's relations with Britain and other Western nations.

Mr Justice Dumbutshena will deliver judgment on charges - that the officers helped to devastate the country's air defences - before a court packed with relatives and friends of the accused, journalists, diplomatic observers and legal experts.

However, most of those present will be just as intent on what happens afterwards as the judgment itself.

Legal sources here believe that at least some of the six will be acquitted. In the circumstances they believe the main question is whether the Government will allow acquitted officers to go free, or will re-detain them, as has happened in a number of previous security-related trials when judgment has gone against the state.

The six are Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slater, former Deputy Commander of the Air Force, Air Commodore Philip Pile, Wing Commander Peter Briscoe, Wing Commander John Cox, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir.

All pleaded not guilty to assisting three unnamed South African agents to penetrate security at Thornhill to sabotage eight Hawker Hunters and four Hawk fighters on July 23, 1982. If found guilty they face the death penalty.

During the 44-day trial the state's production of statements by the officers admitting complicity were countered by evidence that they had been systematically denied access to lawyers and tortured in custody to force them to confess.

Four of the officers - Air Commodore Pile, Wing Commander Cox, Air Lieutenant Lloyd and Air Lieutenant Weir - hold dual British-Zimbabwean nationality, and concern at the allegations is understood to have included Downing Street. The matter almost certainly featured in talks between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Robert Mugabe when the Zimbabwe Prime Minister was in London recently.

At least three whites and six blacks acquitted by the courts are still in custody.

Mr Kaddumi: Still hope for political solution.

Lebanon to step up repression in the West Bank and Gaza, he spoke shortly after the conference had accepted, amid applause, the PLO delegation as a full participant, at the same level as governmental delegations. This was in accordance with the recommendation of the preparatory committee.

War flares again in Lebanon



Hands up: A Lebanese soldier being seized at gunpoint by a left-wing guerrilla during Beirut fighting in which 15 soldiers and two American Marines were killed on Monday.

Congress concerned at status of American Marines

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

In the wake of the killing of two US Marines in Beirut, the Reagan Administration is coming under congressional pressure to change the terms under which 1,200 troops are in Lebanon as part of the multi national peace-keeping force.

Although senator Barry Goldwater (Republican, Arizona) has been the only prominent member of Congress to call for the Marines to be withdrawn, several others have urged the Administration to invoke the 1973 war powers act, which would theoretically provide Congress with a veto over their continued deployment.

The Act was introduced after the Vietnam war and is intended to check the President's power to deploy American troops in hostile situations abroad.

If the situation is deemed sufficiently serious for the Act to be invoked, the troops could be withdrawn within 60 to 90 days unless Congress passed special authorization for them to remain.

On Monday a special crisis management group, chaired by vice-president George Bush, ordered a legal review of the Act but set no date for completion of the review. In the meantime the Administration has made it clear there would be no immediate change in the status of US participation in the four-nation force. The Marines were "an

essential ingredient" in US policy in Lebanon.

American officials contend that the attack appears to have been an isolated incident and was not specifically directed at American positions. If this can be proved, the Act need not be invoked.

But if it is shown that the Marines are in a situation "where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances" then the President is obliged to report to Congress.

A recent Supreme Court ruling has put a question mark over whether the President is still subject to a veto by Congress under the War Powers Act.

Senator John Glenn (Democrat, Ohio) a member of the Senate foreign relations committee and representative Clement Zablocki (Democrat, Wisconsin), chairman of the House foreign affairs committee have both said the deaths of the Marines has changed the situation and that the President should now report to Congress.

However Mr Glenn, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for next year's presidential race, favoured keeping the Marines in Lebanon, a view which seems to have wide bipartisan support.

The Marines, who are mainly deployed round Beirut airport, are backed by reserve of 600 stationed in American warships

off the Lebanese coast. These reserves have not been called up to support the land-based force which includes British, French and Italian troops.

The Administration has indirectly blamed Syria for Monday's attack which was

carried out by Shia militiamen. A senior official accompanying President Reagan on his holiday in California claimed the incident was an outgrowth of Syria's refusal to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and Syrian influence on left-wing Muslim factions there.

Cares of office: A worried President Reagan telephones Washington from his California ranch to seek more information about the deaths of the two American Marines.

Naked truth about Volga bath house

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Russian bath houses, unlike certain kinds of sauna baths in the West, are not normally associated with sin. They are strictly segregated, and in the ladies' baths women can sweat, swim each other with birch twigs, and gossip in the knowledge that their menfolk are safely out of earshot next door.

Comrade Tytkin had other ideas. As head of the baths' administration in Saratov, on the Volga, he obviously thought he had the right to inspect all his establishments. Or so he had told a colleague from Moscow one day as they shared a bottle of vodka in his office.

"Let's go and look at the ladies," Tytkin said thickly. Moments later the two stood swaying in the doorway of the ladies' bath house.

The female attendant, thinking they had got lost, gently pushed the two men out, but they came back. "Don't you know who I am?" demanded Mr Tytkin, peering through the steam. "I am the director of the baths..."

The naked ladies advanced towards him, birch twigs in hand. "This is a Russian on-the-spot inspection," Mr Tytkin said, stepping backwards. "My colleague from Moscow..."

But his colleague had already retreated. One of the ladies phoned the police who threw Mr Tytkin out.

Comrade Tytkin rushed next door to the men's section, where he persuaded the beer-swilling customers to testify to the police that he was not drunk, as the women had claimed. He then called for beer for himself, and hearing that there was none left ordered the attendants to confiscate it from the customers.

The last straw came a few days later when Mr Tytkin, apparently unshaken, began checking the baths for unauthorized customers who had been admitted without tickets. The baths attendants appealed to the newspaper *Trud*, which sent two reporters down to Saratov to uncover the naked truth.

Men and women bathers all told *Trud* that Mr Tytkin was a tyrant, a drunkard, and a lecher, who had also run a fly business on the side selling soap, cosmetics and towels.

Comrade Tytkin's fate is now being decided by the People's Control and the Ministry of Housing and Communal Services.

Poison tide closes beaches in France

Bayonne (Reuters) - Dozens of barrels labelled "cyanide of sodium", carried away by floods in the Spanish Basque country, have been washed ashore in south-west France.

Local authorities have banned swimming on most beaches.

Navy officials alerted ships in the Gulf of Gascony to take care, and an operation was put in hand to recover barrels still afloat.

Nigerian ruling party leads

Lagos (AFP) - President Shagari's National Party of Nigeria has won 145 of the 241 seats declared so far in Saturday's federal assembly elections.

The gains have further cemented the party's geographical spread. It polled more than 12 million votes, representing about 47 per cent of the total cast and reached the mandatory one-third of votes in 17 of the 19 states.

General jailed

Peking (AP) - General Wang Dabin who commanded armies of Red Guards in the mid-1960s, had been sentenced to nine years in prison, according to a Canton newspaper. He was charged with fanning and persecuting Marshal Peng Teh-huai, the former Defence Minister.

Technical hitch

Antwerp (AP) - A 43-year-old businessman, Mr Jozef D'haens, has been arrested on charges of selling United States computer equipment to Hungary in violation of a trade embargo. Three weeks ago a Foreign Ministry official was arrested for selling information about Western technology to the Soviet block.

Thailand offer

Bangkok (Reuters) - Britain is prepared to take part in international financing of a \$520m petrochemical fertilizer project using natural gas from the Gulf of Thailand, according to Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, who is on a visit here.

Protestant goes

Guatemala City (AP) - Senior Ricardo Asturias Valenzuela, a Roman Catholic, has replaced Señor Jorge Serrano Elias, a Protestant, appointed by ex-President Rios Montt, as head of the advisory Council of State.

Jail riot death

Honolulu, Oklahoma (AP) - Governor George Nigh declared a state of emergency as police and National Guards struggled to control a riot at the Conner Correctional Centre in which one prisoner died, 23 people were injured and five buildings were burnt.

Corsica blasts

Ajaccio (Reuters) - Seven bombs exploded around the Corsican capital, after 10 similar attacks in the previous seven days. Buildings owned mainly by French residents were damaged.

MiGs spotted

Tokyo (AP) - Japan's Defence Agency has confirmed that the Soviet Union is stationing MiG23 fighters on Etorofu island, off the northern island of Hokkaido. Etorofu is claimed by Japan but occupied by the Russians.

Hit premiere

Athens (AP) - Mikis Theodorakis received a standing ovation at the Greek premiere of his First Symphony, at the Herod Atticus theatre below the Acropolis. He is best known for his popular songs.

Discord ends

New York (Reuters) - The New York City Opera Orchestra has accepted a new contract giving 6.5 per cent annual pay increases, after a 54-day strike during which musicians picketed the theatre.

Trials stopped

Lorient (AP) - France has suspended indefinitely sea trials on a 280-ton gunboat ordered by Libya. France has already supplied Libya with nine similar vessels.

Heroin seized

Zurich (AP) - Police have seized a woman and a South American drug dealer at Zurich airport with about 11lb of heroin intended for sale in Switzerland and Italy.

Rebels routed

Maputo (AFP) - The Mozambican armed forces say they have swept through the southern province of Inhambane, destroying camps of the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance and taking a "large number" of prisoners.

Greenland Dew

Copenhagen (AFP) - The US is to build two more radar stations in Greenland as part of the distant early warning (Dew) defence system.

Baby boom

Washington (AP) - World population grew by a record \$2,077,000 in the year ending 1982 to reach 4,721,887,000, according to the US Census Bureau.

China says no

Peking (AFP) - China has rejected a Vietnamese proposal for a ceasefire until October 8 along their border.

Furore over Bonn immigration policy

Turk leaps to death from court

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

A left-wing Turkish activist whom the Government was trying to deport yesterday committed suicide by jumping from a sixth-floor window of the Berlin courthouse where his case was being heard.

He was Mr Kemal Altun, aged 23, and his death quickly unleashed a furore in Germany. The Social Democrats accused the Government of giving more credence to the Turkish military dictators than to its democratic opponents, and said Mr Altun was a victim of the harsh new policy towards foreigners being pursued by Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the right-wing Minister of the Interior.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had made a personal plea that Mr Altun be granted asylum.

Mr Altun had become a test case for the Government's

declared intention to cut down the numbers granted asylum, but it aroused grave concern that it seemed to violate Germany's principle of no handing asylum-seekers back to the country where they faced persecution. His case was being heard by the highest administrative court of appeal, and he was supported by churchmen, trade unionists and numerous left-wing groups. Even Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, recently expressed doubts about deporting him to Turkey.

Mr Altun died at the start of the second day of the hearing by hurling himself through an open window in the court room as soon as his handcuffs were removed. His lawyer shouted at him "Don't do it, Kemal" as he leapt up from his seat. Attempts lasting half an hour failed to revive him.

As the leader of a now banned

student group in Turkey, Mr Altun came to Berlin 18 months ago. Turkey accused him of complicity in an assassination attempt on a right-wing politician, but withdrew the charge on seeking his extradition.

He spent the next 13 months in custody while his case was considered. Amnesty International maintained he would be tortured and imprisoned if he was returned.

However, Herr Zimmermann, who has proposed various measures to encourage foreigners to leave Germany and to stop anyone obtaining immigration restrictions by making use of the liberal asylum laws, insisted that he be deported.

A number of other Turkish activists have already been sent back this year, and were promptly arrested on their return. This has

helped fuel growing public discontent over the proposed measures against foreigners. Mr Altun's deportation was delayed while his case was tested in the Federal Supreme Court in Berlin, which was expected to set a precedent. Meanwhile he appealed to the European Human Rights Commission.

Last week his brother, a member of the Turkish Parliament, told the court of torture of members of opposition groups in Turkey.

The Government reacted quickly and with concern to Mr Altun's suicide. A spokesman said it was especially tragic because the difficulties of deciding whether to deliver asylum-seekers to Turkey were especially clear in his case. He said the authorities had been particularly careful to come to a fair decision.

Mulroney sweeps to victory

From John Best, Ottawa

The new leader of Canada's Progressive Conservative Party, Brian Mulroney, has won himself a seat in parliament—and, just as important, shown that he has a more widespread influence. He will take over as Opposition leader when the Commons reconvenes on September 12.

While Mr Mulroney was sweeping to an overwhelming by-election triumph in the Nova Scotia Riding of Central Nova on Monday, another Tory candidate was marching to victory in a by-election at the opposite end of the country in British Columbia.

The victory of Mr Gerry St Germain in Mission-Fort Moody, BC, was an upset. Mr St Germain, a 44-year-old poultry farmer defeated the New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate, Sophie Weremchuk, a school trustee, by more than 3,000 votes.

This could be interpreted as a sign that the photogenic and charismatic Mr Mulroney, aged 44, who won the leadership in June without ever having run for parliament, has the "coast tails" to help pull other Tory candidates into the Commons.

With 211 of 212 polls counted, Mr Mulroney had about 19,000 votes. Mr St Germain, Liberal candidate 7,861; and Mr Roy De Marsh of the NDP 4,109.

In a victory statement, Mr Mulroney said the Tory on both sides in Canada had a new promise and new opportunity for Canada. "There is no longer any such thing as a safe Liberal seat anywhere in Canada".



Mr Mulroney: "No safe Liberal seat left"

Aquino 'hired killer' named

Manila (AP, Renter) - The Philippines Government has identified the man it says killed the opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, and said he was a notorious "gun for hire" employed previously by crime syndicates or subversives.

The chief military investigator, Major General Prospero Olivas, said the man, who was shot dead by security forces immediately after Mr Aquino was killed on August 21, was named as Rolando Galman y Dawang.

President Marcos described the assassination as an "idiotic"

crime that no Filipino politician would commit.

At a meeting with United States Senator Mark Hatfield, yesterday, he said that only local communists stood to benefit, not his Government, his party or the opposition, according to a Presidential Palace statement.

The statement reported Senator Hatfield as saying he understood the country's problems and would urge President Reagan to carry on with his planned visit to the Philippines in November.

Cardinal Jaime Sin Archbishop of Manila, yesterday called for a

council of national reconciliation to establish contact between the Government and the Filipino people after the Aquino murder.

Cardinal Sin, who will officiate at the funeral, in Manila today, refused to serve on the judicial panel set up by President Marcos to investigate the murder.

ESTANBUUL - The Philippine Prime Minister, Mr Cesar Virata, said yesterday that - "Government elements" could have been involved in the Aquino murder (Reuter reports). In an interview he said: "We are not ruling that out. That is why an independent commission was formed".



Dance of the toreador: The bull and matador Miguel Espinosa, known as "Armillita Chico", execute an evasive two-step in their encounter at San Sebastián de los Reyes, near Madrid.

Challenger launch turns night into day

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

In a flash of flame that turned night into day the space shuttle Challenger roared into orbit from Cape Canaveral yesterday to start a six-day mission.

Rain delayed the lift-off for 17 minutes and the shuttle departed at 2.32am in the first night launching of a space craft since Apollo 17 eleven years ago.

A few hours after the launching, television pictures from the spacecraft showed the five crew members going about their work.

Challenger's journey is a dramatic demonstration of the versatility of the shuttle. The space craft made the seventh shuttle flight in July and was serviced in a record 67 days.

One of the main tasks on this trip is to launch Insat-1B, a communications satellite into orbit 22,300 miles above the Indian Ocean. The satellite which will provide telephone, television, and meteorological services for India, will be launched today with the shuttle's 500-lb robot arm.

Among experiments to be conducted on board will be one which, it is hoped, will lead to a more efficient method of making insulin, leading to a new treatment for diabetes.

MOSCOW - The Soviet Union marked the launching of Challenger yesterday by renewing accusations that the United States is using the shuttle programme to militarize space. Tass said one of the crew's tasks was intended to help the Pentagon replace "spy satellites".

Norway tries to right disaster rig

Oslo (Reuter) - Norway plans a new attempt this week to right the Alexander Kielland accommodation rig, which capsized in a hurricane in the North sea over three years ago in the worst offshore rig disaster so far.

The rig capsized on March 27, 1980, killing 123 oil workers, after one of its 800-tonne steel legs

snapped loose. Oil industry experts hope a successful recovery will shed further light on the accident and improve safety.

Norwegian company Stolt-Nielsen Seaway Contracting is confident it has found a way to right the rig and it plans to begin turning the 150ft tall steel structure tomorrow and then turn the rig two days later.

A company spokesman said the task was comparable to turning an 18-storey building upside down.

The French-built Alexander Kielland was used as a hotel by up to 350 oil workers on the Ekofisk field on Norway's North Sea continental shelf. At the time of the disaster, 232 workers were on board.

Greece fails to convince Trudeau

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, who briefly interrupted a Greek island holiday with his three sons to have official talks with the Greek leaders on Monday and Tuesday, said yesterday that he had disagreed with a Greek proposal for a six-month delay in the deployment of missiles in Europe to give the Geneva talks a better chance.

Mr Trudeau said that Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, had not convinced him that the postponement of the deadline to June 1984 would improve the chances of agreement. "There has already been some movement on both sides in Geneva and this is largely due to the fact that December is the deadline", he told a press conference.

Mr Papandreu said that he had discussed at length the missile proposal with Mr Trudeau. But quite paradoxically he added: "I found his position on the issue quite logical".

The two men discussed the prospect of Canadian investments in Greece, brisker bilateral trade, and transfers of Canadian technology. At a banquet on Monday night Mr Papandreu called his Canadian colleague a "great radical" while Mr Trudeau spoke of Mr Papandreu as an "unconventional prime minister".

Mr Trudeau also asked Mr Papandreu whether the withdrawal of the Canadian contingent which served for the past 19 years with the UN peacekeeping force in Cyprus, could help solve the problem, but was told that this would hardly be the appropriate time.

Walesa to defy Gdansk order - with flowers

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Lech Walesa, seen on Polish Television screens on Monday night for the first time in 20 months, is likely to be the rogue card in today's celebrations of the Gdansk agreement which exactly three years gave birth to Solidarity.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the government spokesman, said yesterday that the Gdansk authorities had turned down a request by Mr Walesa to hold a commemorative meeting at 2.30pm today outside the Lenin shipyards. All meetings apart from the officially sanctioned ceremony in the morning, will be considered illegal.

But Mr Walesa had made clear his determination to lay flowers at the three towering crosses, marking the death of workers in 1970, near the shipyard gates. If he does so at the time that the shift changes at the shipyards between 2 and 3 pm a natural crowd may well gather.

In a speech last week—a reply to an anti-solidarity harangue by Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski the Deputy Prime Minister—Mr Walesa invited a government representative to lay flowers with him as an act of goodwill. The sentence was cut out of the television transmission of the encounter.

Apart from the Gdansk flash-

point, there may be trouble in other cities including Nowa Huta and Warsaw. Last year on August 31 demonstrations broke out throughout the country with running street battles between the police and Solidarity supporters in well over a dozen towns and cities. Five people died as a result.

This year, the solidarity underground has not called for demonstrations but for a boycott of all public transport, and of the official press. Workers are expected to stream through the streets, meeting at 4 pm at strategic places in a number of cities including the capital. Later the protesters, if they follow the appeal, will ascend a Mass for Solidarity. Any of these occasions could provoke a demonstration.

The police are on full alert, but government officials say that they do not expect serious unrest today. They point to the failure of the go-slow called by the underground over the past week—a complete fiasco—is how Mr Urban described it—as a token that the Polish people do not want to follow the Solidarity leadership. Mr Urban quoted statistics showing that consumption of electricity at factories had increased over the past week. This showed that the go-slow had collapsed, he said.

Pacific nuclear ban fails

From Tony Debonis, Melbourne

Australia has failed to achieve a strong commitment from the members of the South Pacific Forum for its proposal for a nuclear-free Pacific.

The forum concluded its two-day meeting in Canberra yesterday with an agreement in principle to the concept of a nuclear-free zone, but ministers felt that the time was not right to adopt a declaration supporting the plan.

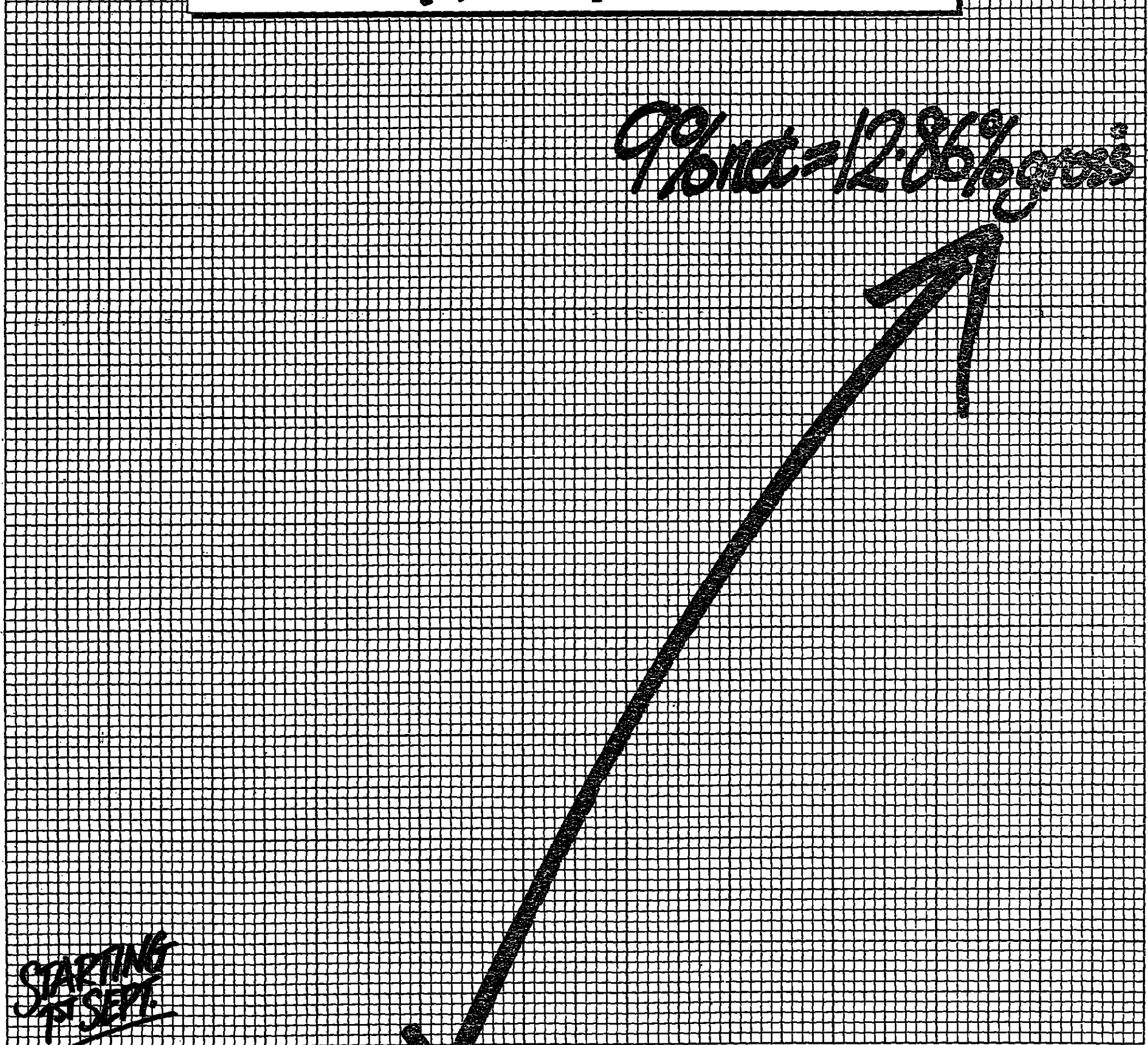
Australia had hoped that if the forum agreed, the proposal could

have been circulated at the United Nations. This would have been an embarrassment to France.

The forum appeared split between those who said that the Australian proposal did not go far enough and those who said that it went too far.

Australia, supported by New Zealand, has proposed that US vessels should be allowed transit rights within the framework of a nuclear-free Pacific.

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Iskander Harappa married into Raza Hyder's family after Hyder had lost his first born son. Harappa patronizes his disappointed relative and appoints him as his personal trusty to reorganize his defeated army. But the roles are suddenly reversed in this third extract of *Shame* as Salman Rushdie concludes his fictional examination of the Zia-Bhutto rift and its continuing reverberations in Pakistan today.



SUCH IS THE SHAPE OF DEATH

General Hyder would remember to his dying day the time he had visited Iskander Harappa to discuss the defence budget and been slapped across the face for his pains. "Expenditure is falling below acceptable levels, Isky," he informed the prime minister, and to his astonishment Harappa banged on his desk so fiercely that the Mont Blanc pens jumped in their holders and the shadows in the corners hissed with alarm. "Acceptable to whom?" Iskander Harappa shouted. "The army does not say what goes, mister. No longer. Get that into your head. If we allot you 50 paise a year, then that is what you must make do with. Get that straight and get out."

"Iskander," Raza said without raising his voice, "don't forget your friends." "A man in my position has no friends," Harappa replied. "There are only temporary alliances based on mutual self-interest." "Then you have ceased to be a human being," Raza told him, and added thoughtfully: "A man who believes in God must also believe in men." Iskander Harappa flew into an even more terrifying rage. "Look out, General," he shrieked, "because I can put you back in that dustbin where I found you." He had rushed out from behind his desk and was screaming right into Raza's face, depositing spittle on the general's cheeks. "God forgive you, Isky," Raza murmured, "you have forgotten that we are not your servants." It was at this point that Iskander Harappa struck him on a spittle-moistened cheek. He did not strike back, but remarked softly, "The blushes caused by such blows do not easily fade."

And in those later years, when Iskander Harappa was safely under the ground and his tough-as-nails daughter was locked away with her mother, Raza Hyder would find himself dreaming about that slap, and about all those years in which Isky Harappa had treated him like dirt. And Arjumand had been even worse; she had stared at him with such open hatred that he believed her capable of anything. Once Isky sent her, in his place, to the annual army parade, just to humiliate the soldiers by making them salute a woman, and a woman, what was more, who had no official status in the government; and Raza had made the mistake of mentioning his worries to the virgin Ironpans. "Maybe history has come between our houses," he said, "and things have gone wrong, but remember we aren't strangers, Arjumand, we go back a long way." "I know," she said wistfully, "my brother is your cousin, I believe."

Chairman Iskander Harappa developed a toothache 30 seconds before the wings surrounded his home in the capital of unwanted airport terminals. His daughter Arjumand had just said something that tempted fate, and whenever anybody did that it made all Iskander's beetle-blackened teeth howl with superstitious anguish, especially after midnight, when such things are even more dangerous than they seem in the daylight.

The steam has gone out of the composition, Arjumand had suggested, much to her father's alarm. He had been nursing in a contented after-dinner fashion about the rumoured escape of an albino panther in the wooded hills of Bagheeragali some 40 miles away; forcing his thoughts out of those haunted woods he scolded his daughter. "God knows how to wash off this optimism of yours; I'll have to dunk you in the reservoir behind the Barrage Dam."

Then his teeth began giving him hell, worse than ever before, and he said aloud in his surprise what he had suddenly thought: "I am smoking the last but one cigar of my life." No sooner had the prophecy left his lips than they were joined by an uninvited guest, an army officer with the saddest face in the world, Colonel Shuja, for six years ADC to General Raza Hyder. The colonel saluted and informed the

prime minister of the coup. "Beg for pardon, sir, but you must accompany me at once to the Bagheeragali rest house."

Iskander Harappa realized that he had failed to grasp the meaning of his reverie, and smiled at his own stupidity. "You see, Arjumand," he said, "they want to feed me to the panther, isn't it so?" Then he turned to Shuja and asked who had given such orders. "Chief Martial Law Administrator, sir," the colonel replied. "General Hyder, sir, beg for pardon."

"Look at my back," Iskander told his daughter, "and you will see a coward's knife."

Harappa was detained in some comfort at the government rest house in Bagheeragali, where of course he was not eaten by a panther. He even retained the use of a telephone, for incoming calls only; the Western newspapers found out the number and Iskander gave long, eloquent interviews to many overseas journalists. In these interviews he made detailed accusations, casting numerous doubts on Raza Hyder's good faith, moral fibre, sexual potency and legitimacy of birth. Still Raza remained tolerant. "That Isky," he confided to Colonel Shuja, "highly-strung bloke. Always was. And the chap is naturally upset; I'd be the same in his shoes. Also one must not believe everything one reads in the Christian press."

"Suppose you hold elections and he wins, sir," Colonel Shuja ventured as his face acquired the most dolorous expression Raza had ever seen on that unhappy countenance, "beg for pardon, sir, but what'll he do to you?"

Raza Hyder looked surprised. "What is this do?" he cried. "To me? His old comrade, his family member by marriage? Have I tortured him? Have I thrown him in the public lock-up? Then what is there for him to do?"

"Family of gangsters, sir," Shuja said, "those Harappas, everyone knows. Revenge crimes and what-all, its in their blood, beg for pardon, General." From that moment Raza Hyder's bruised forehead acquired deep furrows of thought, and two days later he announced to his ADC, "We're going to see that fellow pronto and just sort everything out."

Afterwards Colonel Shuja would swear that until that meeting between Raza and Iskander the general had never thought of assuming the presidency. "That stupid man," he always stated when asked, "brought his fate on his own head." Shuja drove with General Hyder to Bagheeragali, and as the staff car climbed the hill roads their nostrils were assailed by the sweet scent of pine-cones and beauty, those aromas which had the power of lifting the heaviest hearts and making one think that nothing was insoluble. And at the Bagheeragali bungalow the ADC waited in an antechamber while the fateful conference took place.

Iskander Harappa's premonition about the cigars had come true, because in spite of all the air-conditioning units and cut-glass goblets and Shirazi rugs and other creature comforts at the rest house he had been unable to locate a single ashtray, and when he asked the guards to have a box of his favourite Havanas sent from his home they had politely told him it was impossible.

The smoking ban possessed Isky's thoughts, wiping out his appreciation of his comfortable bed and good meals, because it was plain that somebody had ordered the guards to deny him his smokes, so he was being told something - watch out - and he didn't like it, no sir. The absence of cigar smoke left a rancid taste in his mouth. He began to chew betel nut non-stop, deliberately spitting the juice out on the priceless rugs, because his rage had begun to overcome the fastidious elegance of his true nature. The pangs made his teeth hurt even more, so what with everything that had gone wrong inside his mouth it wasn't surprising his words turned bad as well.

Raza Hyder could not have been expecting the reception he got, because he went into Iskander's room with a conciliatory smile on his face; but the moment he shut the door the cursing began, and Colonel Shuja swore that he saw wisps of blue smoke emerging from the keyhole, as if there were a fire



inside, or 420 Havana cigars all smoking away at the same time.

Isky Harappa cursed Raza for an hour and a half without permitting any interruption. Betel juice and the absence of tobacco added to his already enormous vocabulary of imprecations, a deadlier rancour than it had ever possessed in the days of his rakehell youth. By the time he finished the walls of that room were splattered from top to bottom with betel juice, the curtains were ruined, it looked as if a herd of animals had been slaughtered in there, as if turkeys or goats had been struggling wildly in their death-throes, rushing around the room with the blood spewing from the red smiles on their throats. Raza Hyder came out with paan juice dripping off his clothes, his moustache was full of it and his hands shook as the red fluid dribbled off his fingertips, as if his hands had been washed in a bowl of Iskander's lifeblood. His face was paper-white.

General Hyder did not speak until the staff car had pulled up outside the C-in-C's residence. Then he said casually to Colonel Shuja: "I have been hearing some terrible things about Mr Harappa's period in office. That man does not deserve to be set loose. He is a menace to the country."

Two days later General Hyder's son-in-law, Talvar Ulhaq, made the statement in which, under oath, he accused Iskander Harappa of arranging for the murder of his cousin, Little Mir. When Colonel Shuja read this document he thought, wonderingly: "Just look where bad language will get you."

Chairman Iskander Harappa was taken from Bagheeragali rest house to the Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore. He was

kept there in solitary confinement. He suffered from malaria and from infections of the colon. There were bouts of severe influenza. His teeth began to fall out; and he lost weight in other ways as well.

The trial took place in the High Court at Lahore, before five Punjabi judges. At one point Iskander used the phrase, "Damn it," and was reprimanded for the use of bad language in court. He apologized: "My state of mind is not good." The Chief Justice replied: "We don't care." This made Iskander lose his temper. "I've had enough," he cried, "of insults and humiliations." The Chief Justice ordered police officers: "Take that man away until he regains his senses." Another judge added the following remark: "We cannot tolerate this. He thinks he is the former Prime Minister, but we do not care for him." All this is on the record.

At the end of the six-month trial, Iskander Harappa was sentenced to hang by the neck until dead and immediately moved into the death-cell at Kot Lakhpat jail. He was given just seven days, instead of the usual 30, to lodge an appeal.

Iskander announced: "Where there is no justice, there is no point in seeking it. I shall not appeal."

What is the shape of death? Death's cell is ten feet long, seven wide, eight high, 622 cubic yards of finality beyond which there awaits a certain courtyard, a last cigar, silence. I will insist on Romeo y Julietas. That story also ends in death... They call this solitary confinement but he is not alone, there are flies fornicating on his toenails and mosquitoes drinking from the pool of his wrists, putting the blood

to some use before before it all goes to waste. Four guards in the corridor, too in short, plenty of company. And sometimes they let his lawyers pay a call.

Through the door of the iron bars comes the stink of the latrine. In the winter he shivers but the low temperature takes the edge off that brown and foetid smell. In the hot season they switch off the ceiling fan and the odour bubbles and swells, stuffing its putrid fingers up his nose, making his eyes blaze even though his tear ducts are dry.

Two years from fall to hanging, and almost the whole time spent in the enclosed space of death.

If it is a dream, and sometimes in the fever of his days he thinks it is, then (he also knows) the dreamer is someone else. He is inside the dream, or he would not be able to touch dream-insects; dream-water would not burn him... someone is dreaming him. God, then? No, not God. He struggles to remember Raza Hyder's face.

Comprehension comes before the end. He, Harappa brought the general from the wilderness into the world. The general of whom this cell is one small aspect, who is general, omnipresent, omnivorous: it is a cell inside his head. Death and the general: Iskander sees no difference between the terms. From darkness into light, from nothingness into somethingness. I made him. I was his father, he is my seed. And now I am less than he.

Then another step, which takes him beyond such aching simplicities. The father should be superior and the son, inferior. But now I am low and he, high. An inversion: the parent become the child. He is turning me into his son.

His son. Who emerged dead from the womb with a noose about his neck. That noose seals my fate. Because now he understands the cell, the throbbing walls, the smell of excrement, the drumbeat of a foul invisible heart: death's belly, an inverse womb, dark mirror of a birthplace, its purpose is to suck him in, to draw him back and fustal through time, until he hangs foetal in his own waters, with an umbilical cord hung fatally round his neck. He will leave this place only when his mechanisms have done their work, death's baby, travelling down the death canal, and the noose will tighten its grip.

A man will wait a lifetime for revenge. The killing of Iskander Harappa avenges the still-born child. Yes I am being unmade.

Iskander Harappa was persuaded by his lawyers to lodge an appeal against the High Court's sentence of death. The appeal was heard by a bench of seven judges sitting in the Supreme Court in the new capital. By the time the Supreme Court hearings ended he had been in captivity for a year and a half, and a further six months were to pass before the body of the former prime minister arrived at Mohenjao in the care of Talvar Ulhaq, who had, by then, been returned to active police duty.

Elections were not held. Raza Hyder became president. All this is well known.

moreover... Miles Kington

Whispers of old army boots

Kenneth's military fiction marches on! The success of *Bliss* and *Bag*, moreover's new imprint, which satisfies both male and female fantasies, seems unimpeachable. The subject of these tender, tenderous novels is that they are as soft as an eyelash, yet as uncompromising as a kick in the shin with an army boot.

Accordingly we present to eager readers a small run-down of new titles on our list.

Harbours of Love, by Gwendolyn Fastner. High in the sleek over Docking the Spitfire and Messerschmitt twisted and turned, each trying to gain ascendancy over the other. "Harbours" Kate, at the controls of the Spitfire, had already won down 20 Huns, yet she knew that this time she had an opponent worthy of her.

"Get you now!" she whispered, as she turned and barked towards the sleek shape of the German plane. But all she saw was empty sky. Glancing back over her shoulder, she saw with horror the Messerschmitt coming down at her out of the sun. Then was no way she could escape now. With resignation, she passed her hair into a snarl and closed her eyes.

"We'll meet again, We'll meet again, we'll meet again," she said her radio softly. She opened her eyes, just in time to see the enemy cockpit flash past and a cherry face wink at her. Johnny von Arnoldt! The one they called the Handcannon Hun. How she hated him. Horribly humiliated, she realized that he had just spared her life.

"I'll get you, Johnny," she vowed. And so indeed she would, but she never suspected that it would be Mrs Johnny von Arnoldt, after twists and turns of fate that would leave history breathless.

The Silver Smoke, by Trudi Blomsted. "We do not actually take women in the Foreign Legion," said Major Pierre Danois. He paused, regarding the way her trim figure fitted into the uniform. "And yet, in your case... I presume you are joining to forget a great and tragic love?"

"Not at all," said Jean bristly. "I am looking for adventure, a hard life and a bit of a smitten."

Adventure came sooner than she thought. That evening she was pinned in a corridor of the fort by an unshaven Yugoslav recruit called Yaskovic, who smelt of cheap wine. His hands started to explore her uniform.

"I have never had a girl from Guildford," he leered.

"Nor will you, lecher!" sang out a voice. It was Alec, the cheeky Glaswegian he had met earlier. But before Alec could move, Jean had kneeled Yaskovic in the groin, chopped him to the back of the neck and kicked him twice expertly as he sank groaning to the floor.

"This fort needs cleaning up and I aim to see it gets done," said Jean clearly as she strode past the open-mouthed Alec. Behind a hidden screen Major Danois smiled and twirled his moustache. He would break this little desert henry before long, he thought, which showed how little he knew about girls from Guildford.

The Hot Summer Campaign, by Wendy Threlk.

On the retreat through Greece in front of the advancing Germans, Captain Leonard Tasker felt strangely protective towards the 3,000 men and 2,000 mules under his command. He also felt strangely protective towards Xenia, the proud Greek peasant girl who had attached herself to the company, even though accommodation was desperately hard to find for her.

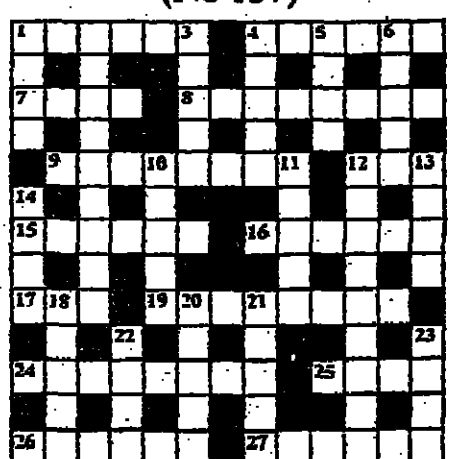
"Hope you don't mind mentioning it to you, sir," said the old sergeant to him one day. "But the men are beginning to talk about the way that girl sleeps in your tent at night."

"Heavens," said Leonard, flushing. "Surely they don't think there's anything..."

But Leonard's loyalties are sharply divided when Xenia, out foraging for yoghurt, is captured by the Germans. Should he continue the retreat without her, or turn and fight them for possession of the girl whom he finds so inexplicably fascinating despite not being able to understand a word she says? A taut epic of revenge, pursuit and military incompetence, with many riveting details about mule maintenance.

Coming soon: *SAS Sally*, by Lavinia Spilley; *No Funeral for Lucy*, by Gloria Farrow; *Snipers Beware*, by Trudi Blomsted; *The Platinum Blonde Captain* by Kitty O'Trench, etc. etc.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 137)



- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Calm (6) | 1 Support (4) |
| 4 Chipped (6) | 2 Space traveller (9) |
| 7 Swear word (4) | 3 Robsdown (5) |
| 8 Tent area (4,4) | 4 Wanderer (3) |
| 9 Washing letter (8) | 5 Money (4) |
| 12 Aged (3) | 6 Land (5) |
| 15 Enthusiastic (6) | 18 Father (5) |
| 16 Shooting star (6) | 11 Eyeglasses (5) |
| 17 Floor covering (3) | 12 In the red (9) |
| 19 Great delight (8) | 13 Dissuasive (4) |
| 24 Speak incoherently (8) | 14 Blow (4) |
| 25 Sloping walk (4) | 15 Approval (5) |
| 26 Force (6) | 16 Large guest house |
| 27 Of race group (6) | 21 Cessure (5) |
| | 22 Pointed end (4) |
| | 23 Long poem (4) |

SOLUTION TO No 136
ACROSS: 1 Swooshes 3 Chef 5 Raise 9 Invader 11 Dogbody 13 Fire 15 Chatterbox 18 Amok 19 Ghettos 22 Let down 23 Vinyl 24 Trum 25 Saddle
DOWN: 2 Wring 3 Ore 4 Spindlesbanks 5 Cove 6 Endorse 7 Trade 10 Ruth 12 Beau 14 Lost 15 Coffer 16 Yawl 17 Psalm 20 Owner 21 Dorm 23 Ve

سبحان الله

WEDNESDAY PAGE

ALAN FRANKS' DIARY

The radical chic of it all

I am - aren't we all? - a member of a nuclear family, and the four-month-old baby is by far our most potent piece of weaponry. He goes off at irregular intervals, and, like the neutron bomb, destroys life as we know it while leaving property intact. He is doing so now. The Street Radical drops by in search of cooperation for the summer party. Fine in principle, except that his house is a Nuclear Free Zone - it says so on the front window - so presumably I would be disbarred from attending meetings there with the above progeny.

SALT talks reconnected at, where else? the breakfast table. My son, standing out for increased spending on conventional arms, including a full Robin Hood outfit and life-size claymore. He reckons this would bring him into line with his sister's receipt of a battery organ, the Junior Tomemaster. I explain that this does not fall within the nuclear umbrella, being an instrument of culture and harmony, but at this moment an atonal toccata, more Schoenberg than Schumann, pulses in from the "music room". Not even Holst's bringer of war could stiffen the sinews and summon up the blood so well, and I begin to see the lad's point. This is clearly an issue for the next full CRUET conference (Conference to Resist Unnecessarily Expensive Toys). The baby, meanwhile, is cooing in with his own strident chirp warning system, which bodes ill for the mid-1980s. These emerging nations are all very well, but they are often a bit light on diplomacy.

My son appears with a gaudy brochure of the desired hardware. Jane's Fighting Planes could have unveiled its readership with such vivid display, and I confess I am drawn to the document. But goodness, the prices. Even the most humble instrument of oblivion is an unacceptably high artefact of the gross domestic product. My son is furious at this and stamps off down the hall to convene an ad hoc YELL meeting.

I take another look at the pamphlet of death and am intrigued as to where it came from. Petranella's boys? I doubt it: there is a freeze on relations with them. The Mailand children? No, such literature would not be countenanced in that state; the household has always held itself up as a demilitarized zone (despite the Strosser-like paternalism of the president), a sort of Costa Rica of the

Central Richmond Isthmus. Where then? I have a hunch it emanates from the Street Radical's preserve. Just a hunch, but a very strong one. I fancy there is a marked strain of bellicosity in his protectorate. You only have to look at his two cats, Fidel and Raoul, and their wild-eyed forays into the scrubland of the park.

First meeting of SPOC (Summer Party Organization Committee). We are chez Street Radical in his surprisingly bijou dwelling. There are Sandinista posters behind the fireplace, and the rear sector of the knocked-through lounge is solid with Baluchistan. Around the table are Mr and Mrs Radical (she too is in publishing); two of their (I do not mean to be unkind) token pensioners; myself and - dear God - Petranella. Not even Contadora could have assembled such a range of potential dissonance. I have put my head in the lion's mouth by bringing the neutron bomb with me, but Fidel and Raoul are showing a surprising sense of rapport (I hope that is what it is) by slinking across the Amticco towards the pram.

A breakdown in the CRUET talks, with a chasm between the two superpowers (wife and self), and heightened tension among the client states. I realize now that we have gone multilateral (beleaguered on all sides).

Radical roars down the road in his poor man's Range-Rover - the Rancho Sumatra or Macho Sinatra or whatever it is - and my hunch about the pamphlet hardens into a conviction.

Second SPOC meeting. It now transpires that party proceeds are to go to CND, at which point the pensioners, and Petranella, stand up to leave. There is no warlike aspect to match that of the Old Dear when roused. Petranella, of course, needs no such metamorphosis. I have in my hand a piece of paper, to coin a phrase, it is THAT PAMPHLET, smuggled in beneath the counterpane of the pram, and I let it drop on to the Amticco as the Radical boys team into the smoke-filled conference room with the glint of fresh atrocities in their eyes. The elder one (quite a senior citizen at nine), snatches it from the floor, screaming: "It's mine! It's mine!"

A compromise: party profits will now go to the NSPCC. Save the Parents will not take this lying down.



TALKBACK

Still in fear

From a reader in south-west London. As one of those "battered wives" we hear so much about, I would like to put another side of the access rights controversy.

For years I was married to a very violent man until I finally escaped with my two sons to a Woman's Aid refuge. In due course I obtained various injunctions, custody orders and my decrees. Because I feel that my sons had a right to see him I did not fight the access order. I am now committed, for the next 10 years, to making sure that the children are at a certain place at a certain time three Sundays a month.

What this means is that I can never be free of him. He will always know where I am, what I do, whom I see and who visits me; he questions the children about this all the time. Any future relationship I may form will be overshadowed by the fear that he will know about it and that my friends will be harassed (or worse). Violent men rarely have any respect for the law, they act first and consider the consequences afterwards.

I lost my home and all my possessions (my fear of reprisals outweighs everything else), and I can hardly be said to have gained my freedom or even peace of mind. Having lived in fear of this man for years I find I am still living in fear of him - because the access rights demand that I have to do so.

Cervical cancer

From Dr O. A. N. Husain, Regional Cytology Centre, The Division of Pathology, Victoria Hospital, Duxbury, St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea, SW10.

Your article, "How Screen Tests Can Save Lives" (August 17), has missed an important point at issue. The screening programme of the NHS carries out about three million smear tests each year to cover the 15 to 17 million women at risk from cervical cancer. If evenly spread over the population, such an effort would have a substantial effect on the mortality rate from this cancer, which exists, on average, for some five to 10 years as a detectable pre-cancerous condition. Of all the smear tests received by the screening laboratories in this country, some 55 per cent come from those under 35 years old (from about seven million women) compared with 45 per cent from the 14 million over 35.

It is only when the numbers screened risk to a significant level that the mortality drops. It is obvious that between 60 and 70 per cent of the young women in this country are probably having tests, compared with less than 30 per cent of those over 35, when true cancer develops.

Concentration of effort, therefore, should be on involving by persuasion and encouragement to the young middle-aged and older women to come forward to be tested. A much higher proportion of over 35s attend the screening projects at the mobile clinics of the Women's National Cancer Control than those who attend the statutory clinics.

The problem is not one of providing screening service, it is the involvement of those at greatest risk, apart from the more sexually active high risk groups, are those of age. We must attract the 35 to 55s to avail themselves of our free screening service. The task is one of health education and publicity and provision of a wide range of smear collections to suit all groups and ages of women.

Sclerosis therapy

From Dr P. B. James. I would like to correct a number of points in the article "MS dispute" (Medical Briefing, August 5). The use of hyperbaric oxygen in the treatment of multiple sclerosis is not based on my proposition that the cause of the initial damage in the disease is the blockage of the microcirculation of the nervous system by fat particles.

These ideas were the subject of an article in The Lancet last year, but reports of improvement with intermittent high pressure oxygen have been published independently in six countries over the last 13 years, and relate to more than 700 patients. These have been confirmed by controlled animal studies and a double-blind, controlled trial in multiple sclerosis sufferers at New York University, despite the utilization of oxygen in a way appropriate to a pharmaceutical preparation.

The credit for most of the recent effort should go to Dr R. A. Neuberger of Florida, who has continued to use and research this therapy in spite of constant opposition, because he found it was of benefit to patients, even in the later stages of the disease when there is no question of a cure. Finally, the 250 patients treated in Dundee have been treated by ARMS, in their self-help centre, not by me.

Veronica Grocock talks to a woman to whom keeping the house clean is a painful obsession

Betty Friedman, the American writer, once declared, in a variation on Parkinson's Law, that "housework expands to fill the time available". The year was 1963, and Ms Friedman's book, *The Feminist Mystique*, became a seminal feminist text for its exposure of the "bored housewife" syndrome. Despite the benefits of labour-saving gadgets, she observed, the modern housewife probably spent more time on housework than her grandmother did.

Twenty years on, June Quehen's bungalow in Lewes, a microcosm of neatness in this small, spruce Sussex town, is tangible testimony to the claim. She shares it with husband Steve, a freelance composer and arranger, their 13-year-old son Timothy, and a cat called Mu-lon.

The family home is spacious, utterly devoid of dust and clutter. Walls and surfaces gleam, most of the furniture is modern and functional, and every item has its allotted place. Nothing less would satisfy June Quehen, whose desire for a tidy home oversteps normal boundaries of domestic punctiliousness. Her days are dominated by a punishing ritual of cleaning, washing and polishing, in a state of rotational order, from nine in the morning until bedtime (shopping, cooking and other chores have to be fitted in later). It is a daily obsession that has remained with her throughout 31 years of marriage, despite all attempts to thwart it with drugs, psychotherapy and electric shock treatment.

A sanarily dressed, intelligent and articulate woman of 38, June Quehen can rationalize her bizarre obsession, and even joke about it, albeit in a weary, *déjà vu* fashion. But if she ever tries to stop the ritual, she becomes hysterical or deeply depressed.

"The depression seems to lift when I've finished cleaning," she says. "I feel I've achieved something at the end of each day. I haven't, but my head feels clearer."

The family suffer terribly. The thought of any mess is devastating for her. I live in terror of burglars. They were burgled once, in their previous home in Brighton. Luckily, she recalls wryly, "he was an exceptionally tidy burglar."

The Quehens rarely entertain at home, because of the inevitable disruption to her routine. Yet it is hard to reconcile June Quehen's poised, outgoing manner and well-groomed appearance with the "obsessional" tag. She seems the antithesis of the flustered household drudge.

"It's a big act," she says, "a facade that I've adopted over the years. I go to great lengths not to make people feel uncomfortable. I can keep up appearances, but I get in such a terrible state inside that I feel sick with it. It makes friendships a bit limited. I often wonder what would happen if the house was on fire. I'm



sure I would still have to finish cleaning it!"

Although she laughs now and again at what she terms her "madness", she is only too aware of the resultant strains on family life. She still feels guilty about her decision to send Timothy, an only child, to boarding school. "He was only eight. I wouldn't allow his friends in the house, and that is so very bad for a child. He couldn't play or develop properly. I was always tidying his toys and putting them away."

Timothy, who plans to move out soon and share a flat, is reticent by nature, but admits that his mother's obsessive behaviour has been "getting on my nerves quite a bit over the past few months. It does affect you, because of other things on my mind like trying to get a job."

"My mum comes into my room and dusts around, but not if I have friends here. A mate I have known for six or seven years has got used to it. I don't usually tell my friends because it's too long a story - not that it would bother me if someone found out. A couple of years ago it might have done."

Steve Quehen rents a small office in Brighton. In their previous home, he worked in a converted garage in the basement. As a composer/arranger he needed to surround himself with stacks of paper.

"It was not that messy and muddy", he recalls, "but I liked to think it could have been... June never really liked the room. She thought it was a nasty, dirty hole. I was always rather unhappy that she didn't like that atmosphere of muddle."

"I knew she was a depressive. The obsession seemed to arise out of the depression. It crept up without one expecting it."

I used to take Tim out on Sundays to get him out of the way when he was quite little. I always felt that June couldn't function till I was out of her way. Only if she was really 'in extremis' would I be diverted from my work. One chucks the sponge in then, and stays up a couple of hours to make up time. She always gave me as much freedom as she possibly could to work.

"One copes because one has to. I have got so used to it that it really doesn't matter any more. I have a nice clean home..."

"What really distresses me is seeing June become increasingly tired by this obsession as the years

roll by. I am upset that earlier on it wasn't possible, medically, for it to be sorted out, so that this very real physical readiness could have been alleviated."

Steve wipes the dishes or lays the table but other chores are strictly June's domain. She, no one else, must see to them, and in her way. "Tim makes his bed and I go and remake it", she admits. "If I've had a bad bout of flu, Steve's helped out, but all the time I am worried sick: 'Will I ever get it straight again?' I can't relax and enjoy my life!"

A period cottage with "character" would be more to her taste, but all those nooks and crannies would only spell disaster. She tried living in one once, but became suicidal and suffered a massive breakdown culminating in two years as a psychiatric inpatient.

She has tried part-time work, but could not cope and "collapsed" in a heap "after staying up all night to get the housework done. She admits she is getting more and more exhausted each day."

"I've cut myself off from relatives. They just say 'Pull yourself together'. That annoys me, because nobody could be more involved - mentally with outside interests, than myself."

"Friends 'drop' me because they know I can never get out. It's almost my dream to go out for a morning coffee... I don't think people really understand when it comes down to practicalities - when you can't get somewhere, can't do something. They just drift off in the end. I feel completely isolated."

"Yes, I'm afraid I do feel bitter. I've tried not to. Now that old age is creeping on, I find it's all been such a waste of time."

The only time she can ever "switch off" is when she goes away for a short break. Even then, after a few days she starts scouring the hotel broom cupboard... "I must be a chambermaid's dream!"

At home she has "got through" endless vacuum cleaners and always keeps one on standby, just in case.

Perhaps the truest irony is June's dislike of the "conventional housewife" image. She bristles when praised for being "houseproud".

"People refuse to accept it is a problem, an illness. They think of it as a virtue. 'Come and do my house', they say. I'm tired of that one."

Psychiatric theories as to what triggered off June Quehen's obsession range from a traumatic affair with a married man when she was 18, to her upbringing. She says she was a "typical" teenager, "very tidy, but never had a real 'base'". Her mother was housekeeper to a clergyman: "I was very much an upstairs/downstairs life. When I married and had a place of my own, I wanted to make it perfect."

At the back of her mind, she is uneasy about losing her obsession, frightened of the void it would leave in such a rigidly structured life.

One remaining option is a brain operation. Anxious though she is to find a cure, June Quehen feels this would be too drastic a step. "Better the devil you know than be some kind of vegetable!"

How these 'rituals' can be treated

The OED definition of obsession is "an unreasonably persistent idea in the mind." Joy Melville, in *Phobias And Obsessions*, describes obsessive rituals as "placatory acts" designed to ward off "unspecified but impending doom". They "reassure" obsessives that no harm will befall them.

One common method of treatment is behaviour therapy. This exposes a patient to the particular "cue" that marks off the ritual. Compulsive cleaners like June Quehen would be confronted with deliberate untidiness and dissuaded from clearing it up. Drawers and cupboards would be flung open and their contents left in disarray.

Dr Robert Sharpe practises behaviour therapy in Wimpole

Street. "Obsessionality", he says, "is a matter of degree. Everybody is obsessive. Some people have to spend the first hour getting up, washing, dressing and so on, in a very ritualistic fashion. It is a normal coping mechanism."

"It's when the rituals start to eat into, and take over, other parts of the waking day, that they become pathological."

He believes that an obsession with housework often stems from excessive conditioning into the traditionally female role. "Some women become obsessively tidy because they are 'only' housewives - forgetting that they are doing the most tricky job of all: bringing up young kids and looking after a home."

"The general theme is under-used

talent. 'The Devil makes work for idle hands' is very opposite in this situation."

Colin Blowers, a behaviour therapist with a nursing background at Brighton's New Sussex Hospital, emphasizes the vital role of the therapist: a friend or relative who can be taught the correct approach and responses in the patient's treatment - the pat on the back when a ritualistic urge is curbed, the ready cup of tea or coffee as reward for achieving mutually agreed "targets".

He has found that about 50 per cent of obsessional patients can be helped. About three people per thousand develop obsessional problems of various kinds, he says, and men are equally prone to the condition.

Naughty but nice

GUEST COOK



Jennie Reekie

and American chocolate mousse torte are two.

I am also pleased to report that after a six-month sabbatical we are all eating chocolate again, and I did make some permanent friends among neighbours who loved the handouts. I wish I could have handed over the extra pounds I had gained as a job lot with my manuscript: I regret they are still sitting there as a permanent reminder. Maybe I should start writing a slimming book now.

Although I found chocolate mousse torte as an American recipe, I think it is probably German in origin. I found similar cake recipes in my researches, but they were not as successful as this one, which is rather unusual in that you first bake about three-quarters of the mixture, which rises, rather like a soufflé, and then sinks as it cools. You then fill the hole in the middle with the remainder of the uncooked mixture to make a filling.

American chocolate mousse torte Serves six to eight

- 15g (½oz) butter
- 2 tablespoons dry breadcrumbs (crispings)
- 225g (8oz) plain chocolate
- 1 tablespoon instant coffee granules
- 4 tablespoons water
- 8 eggs, separated
- 170g (6oz) caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence

To decorate:

- 150ml (½ pint) whipping cream
- Chocolate curls or grated chocolate

Lightly butter a 23cm/9in deep

crumbs. Put the chocolate, coffee and water into a basin. Stand over a pan of hot water and leave until the chocolate has melted and the coffee dissolved. Remove from the heat. Whisk the egg yolks and sugar in a large bowl until they are thick and creamy, then gradually beat in the chocolate and then the vanilla essence. Whisk the egg whites until they are stiff, then fold into the chocolate mixture.

Fill the dish with about three quarters of the mixture, cover the remainder and chill in the refrigerator. Bake the contents of the flan dish in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350° mark 4) for 25 minutes. Turn off the oven and bake for a further 5 minutes, then remove from the oven and leave to cool for two hours. Fill the cavity in the centre with the remaining mixture and chill for 30 minutes. Whip the cream and spread over the top, then sprinkle the top with chocolate curls or grated chocolate.

Rum cake is a moist chocolate cake. It is noticed, but should be served with lashings of whipped cream or crème chantilly. It is best kept for at least 24 hours before serving so that it becomes very soft and moist, but once cut it should be eaten as soon as possible.

- Rum cake Makes one 20cm (8in) cake
- 110g (4oz) self-raising flour
- ½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 45g (1½oz) cocoa
- 6 tablespoons cold water
- 3 tablespoons dark rum
- 110g (4oz) butter
- 225g (8oz) caster sugar
- 2 eggs
- 55g (2oz) ground almonds

Well grease and line a 19-20cm/7½-8in round cake tin. Sift together the flour and bicarbonate of soda. Sift the cocoa into a basin and stir in the water and rum. Cream the butter and sugar together until light; the high proportion of sugar to butter means that it will not become as light as there were equal proportions. Gradually beat in the eggs, a little at a time. Carefully fold in the almonds, then the flour and cocoa mixture alternately. Turn into the prepared tin and bake in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/325°F mark 3) for about one hour or until the centre of the cake springs back when lightly pressed. Cool in the tin for five minutes, turn out and cool on a wire rack. Wrap in greaseproof paper and foil or place in a tin until required.

THE ARTS

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Bridget Reilly's long interest in the dynamics of form and colour has at last, perhaps inevitably, turned her to designing for dance: Ballet Rambert premiere Robert North's *Colour Moves* at the King's Theatre tomorrow. Interview by Roger Berthoud

Shining visions of an abstract future

Bridget Reilly with her wall decorations for the Royal Liverpool Hospital and (right) working with assistants on the designs for *Colour Moves*

Given Bridget Reilly's deep interest as an abstract painter in the dynamic properties of form and colour, it was an inspired idea of the Ballet Rambert's artistic director, Robert North, to commission her to design a new ballet, to her first. Judging by a model at her home in Holland Park, her work is likely to make a strong impact when *Colour Moves* has its debut at the Edinburgh Festival tomorrow. North has done the choreography, the music is by Christopher YOUNG and the costumes by Andrew Storer.

A slim woman of 51 with short, dark hair and very blue eyes, she explains how she set about the task. "Robert North invited me to 'go first', as it were: that is, to design the sets first. The music and choreography would then be set to the visual situation I had made. That was a tremendously exciting challenge."

"Robert liked the studies I had pinned up around the studio, he liked the way one colour reacted upon another, and thought that we could make an abstract colour ballet on the

basis of these relationships. Initially I took five colours and designed five backcloths, each dominated by one colour. The sequence of the cloths had to be thought about: red and yellow form natural high points, for instance, while blue and green are quieter."

"The next difficulty was how to link the colours so they formed a continuous whole. We decided to use the colours of the costumes to make the transitions, so the dancers carry the development of the ballet from one colour-space, set or act to the next."

As she worked on the cloths, she noticed that a blue dancer against a blue cloth gives a mysterious, ethereal, almost disembodied feeling, while the same blue dancer leaps to life against a vivid yellow cloth. So, by reacting upon each other, the dancers and backcloths generate distinct moods and give the ballet a theme of metamorphosis. All the colours come together in stripes in a joyous finale.

Those vertical stripes of colour form the subject-matter of her latest

paintings. Why stripes rather than the more complex designs on which her international reputation was built? "They have the maximum exposure of edge," she says, "and it's along the edges that the interactions take place."

"When two colours interact, they produce a third, disembodied colour which takes the form of coloured light and seems to come off the canvas. Viewing distance is crucial, and so is the light in which it is seen: daylight is by far the best. She was not, she points out, aiming for any interaction of that sort in the recently unveiled wall decoration for some corridors of the Royal Liverpool Hospital, but rather for an effect of brilliance and well-being."

It is tempting to see a link between Bridget Reilly's originality and her having been spared much formal education. She lived with her mother, sister and an aunt before and during the war in a north Cornwall cottage with no mod cons. Her father, a businessman, served in the Far East and was missing for 18 months; his wages were paid at

first, but had to be paid back when he was presumed killed. Then he turned up in a Japanese camp on the infamous Burma-Siam railway line - and the wages were returned. He is still very much alive, aged 83.

It was a wonderfully exciting and makeshift life for a child, she recalls. Her aunt, who had been to art school, and her mother encouraged her to paint and draw. Education at the hands of local ladies was meagre but often fun, and a boarding convent school came as a nasty shock. When she was admitted, aged 15, to Cheltenham Ladies' College, mainly on a wave of sympathy for returning POWs, she was found to be four years behind her peers in schooling.

But she was allowed to concentrate on art, and progressed rapidly with the guidance of the art master, Colin Hayes, now at the Royal College of Art and a Royal Academician; and did very well thereafter at the Goldsmiths School of Art thanks to a fine drawing teacher, Sam Rabin, if less well subsequently in the freer atmosphere of

the Royal College of Art. Only when she later met the painter Maurice de Sausmarez were her eyes properly opened, via the work of Seurat, to a surer handling of colour, hitherto her main weakness.

"I had ten years in the wilderness, lost confidence, fell into despair, all those things," she says. "She taught teenagers in a convent school, she taught at night schools and at Wandsworth Prison. 'Working with children I discovered that the greater the limitations, the more inventive the results. I would say: use reds only, and cover the area so that the reds touch each other. You would be amazed at the variety of the results.' Then came two stretches as a sort of roving draughtsman with the J. Walter Thompson advertising agency, which were good for her confidence: she learnt that one had to work through problems, and that she could work to order."

Only around 1960 did she find her way towards her distinctive style. "I started to paint movement in sequences, the principle of which was a regular

structure disturbed, and I saw these explosive visual energies emerging on the paper. That gave me the clue, and on that principle I worked for a long time." She might take a regular pattern of black circles on a white background, then gradually change them into ovals and their colour to a whitish grey. "One of the assumptions is that I have studied optics and am a fiendish mathematician. It's quite wrong. It's all done empirically."

There is still much trial and error as she and her two assistants work at huge tables in the three studios in her house on preliminary studies for the final paintings, seeking to produce those interactions and to disengage the possibilities of colour. Of one thing she is convinced: "Abstract painting is in its infancy, and what I am doing is simply beginning to draw on the inherent possibilities of colour. What Siennese painting was to the art of the High Renaissance, current abstract painting is to future developments. There will be great abstract colour painting in the future."

Promenade Concerts
Each for himself

Bream Consort
St Luke's, Chelsea/
Radio 3

This was a period piece, in more ways than one. James Savage's splendid church of St Luke, Chelsea, where John Goss and John Ireland were organists, is a welcome addition to Prom venues: it accommodates 900 people, though with evidently poor sightlines from the galleries, and has a fine nave 60 feet high (when it was built, in the 1920s, it was the first high stone-vaulted church to be attempted since the Reformation). The simple resonance of the church, however, would make it more suitable for a Prom of choral music - Tallis and Schütz in 1985? - than it was for the busy detail of the consort music performed by Julian Bream and friends.

No one has done more to alert us to the splendours of Elizabethan music than Bream, and years ago he gave pioneering performances of the consort pieces from Thomas Morley's famous collection of *Lessons*. More recently he decided to re-form his own Consort; and it has made several tours. But the principle on which it operates is still that of a couple of decades ago: brilliant, animated performances by Bream himself in the centre of the ensemble, scurrying away like some seventeenth-century Gull-in-the-written-out divisions of Morley's arrangements, surrounded by sober, straight-faced accompaniments from the rest of the group.

Bream does encourage his collaborators to blossom. There were some nicely-turned exchanges with the treble viol of Catherine Macintosh in "Crims-tock", and the whole ensemble acquired a crisp rhythmic life in the "Monsieur's Alman" (a setting attributed to Byrd). But on the whole there is no improvisatory spirit permeating here; phrasing is dull, articulation routine, and it is Bream's show.

So it was solo virtuosity that made the strongest impression: Bream's own multicoloured "Allison's Knell", James Tyler's knes-sing in Holborne's setting of "As I went to Walsingham" and at the end - not a moment too soon - the divertingly mellifluous re-reading of those Morley songs (with a few added for an encore) by Robert Turr. There was little here which acknowledged the strides forward made in the three decades since Bream's early work; but, more worrying, there was little that gave an impression of sparkling, animated musical interplay - I heard far more of that in *Jazz: In Britain* in the car on my way home.

Nicholas Kenyon

RPO/Groves
Albert Hall/Radio 3

No orchestra can be envied the task of playing a note of Sibelius so soon after the CBSO's provocative and regenerating South Bank cycle under Simon Rattle. But advance programming is mercurial, and the Royal Philharmonic with Sir Charles Groves gives the best test in Sibelius's Fourth Symphony at Monday night's Prom.

It was a reading which seemed to be being heard from somewhere behind Sibelius's shoulder, rather than by ears already quickened by the harmonic and structural disruption of the century it was reaching out to. With its gently shaped contours, its sense of almost affectionate resignation rather than bleakness, it became more a corporate valediction than an isolated quest.

At last, it would be nice to think that was the idea, rather than that, through lack of the score's being anything like deep enough under the skin, the players were simply prevented from reaching its stark, uncompromising heart. For too often even its own vision seemed curiously ill-defined: legato was too often flaccid where it should be tense, climaxes were laboriously rather than inexorably approached, entries and ensemble were blurred.

Earlier in the evening, Alfred Brendel had been the soloist in the equally enigmatic, constantly perplexing Fourth Piano Concerto of Beethoven. For Brendel on Monday it seemed a fountain of ideas and impulses. The more rarely played second cadenza, less brooding in its insistence, more brittle and harmonically abrasive, was used in the first movement; and it seemed to emphasize the mercurial, almost teasing character of the reading as a whole. Even the slow movement, glassy, still and wide-eyed, could have been a *troupeur's* - and too often one could have wished that the orchestra, with its reluctant and lack-lustre repertoire, had been just that.

Hilary Finch

● The guitarist John Williams is the artistic director of South Bank Summer Music 1984. He succeeds Simon Rattle, and is the seventh to hold the post since its inception in 1968.

Television

Sonorous phrases with all too little meaning

Alan Greenberg originally intended *Land of Look Behind* to be a documentary about the funeral of Bob Marley, the reggae singer and songwriter who died of cancer in Miami aged 36 in 1981. In a short, tempestuous life, Marley became known as a Third World superstar, sold his records all around the world and became a legend in his native Jamaica.

To mark his passing, 100,000 people gathered there in the national arena to celebrate him in song and verse. Something like that has happened to Mr Greenberg

at this vivid fiction, for the documentary got away from him and what we saw last night on Channel 4 was described as a documentary fantasy which seemed, and proved to be, a contradiction in terms.

Much of the film, which was excellently shot, was in semi-Creole and, though subtitles were provided, they were not generous enough to satisfy the curious about the Rastafarian belief, which Marley embraced, or even the reggae music he did so much to establish.

We began with a man chopping wild pineapple and plucking forth the toads that dwell therein. It seemed we might be in for an interesting nature lecture but he moved on to speak of the fearful forest of Look Behind which lurked near the village of Quick Step in which he lived and to plead for industry and aid for his people, which seemed very necessary.

This sally into development themes, however, was as short-lived as the nature lecture, and

soon we were into a bewildering world of dreadlocks, reggae music and much smoking of ganja, an intoxicating preparation made, I understand, from the female flowering tops of Indian hemp.

Marley himself was a prodigious smoker of marijuana, and a young man recorded his fear of smoking a hundred joints a day with some envy. Various singers and poets did their bits, giving us some sonorous phrases which reached for profundity but had not a lot of meaning. In short, Mr

Greenberg's film, which has apparently won an award, was one of those which shroud a multitude of images under the umbrella "impressionistic".

What it did not do was to explain the life of the Jamaican hinterland, its problems or its motivations. Reggae enthusiasts, among whom I am not numbered, may have been sent by it all but for the rest of us *Land of Look Behind* was surely as baffling at the end as at the beginning.

Dennis Hackett



Newley's Chaplin with the uncannily accurate Stan Laurel of Jim MacGeorge

recognized superstar. He set the pattern for all the other Hollywood Greats - even to comingling personal scandal with creative achievement. What sustains *Chaplin* the musical is the fascination of its central subject and the fidelity with which history is told. What saps its energies is the aforementioned lustreless score, an uncertainty as to what kind of musical idiom is best suited to make its points and a fatal permissiveness towards letting "real life" dictate the curve of the dramatic structure.

The musical form thrives on diversions and digressions rather than solid chronological progression. Show-stoppers are all-musical arbitrary items that simply glory in song and dance no matter what their pertinence to the main design - as, for instance, in Gilbert and Sullivan. That happens once or twice during the show, but never sufficiently strongly to break the dogged continuity.

Newley is almost as interesting a phenomenon as Chaplin. A

child star in England who quickly made a success as a singer, writer and movie-maker, he falls into that now-familiar category of artist whose versatility is unquestionable but who is never quite the star total of his parts. Musically, using a heavily pulsating vibrato, he always struck me as parodying the act of singing. As an actor, he had a certain rough cockney charm which effectively combined guile and opportunism. As a writer and purveyor of musical entertainments, he was always mired in sentimentality and, no doubt, his fascination for Chaplin arises because he identifies so strongly with the comedian's most poisonous trait - a compulsive tendency to play for pats.

To be fair to him, Newley's energy and creativity are precisely the stuff out of which commercial success is made and, as a kind of modern incarnation of Dion Boucicault, he has both visibility and a certain popular appeal. Unfortunately, in tackling a subject of such proportions, he

invites inevitable comparisons - and, no matter what faults we may find with Chaplin's cinematic persona, he was a consummate artist and one of the most dominant influences of his time. For a superannuated pop-singer with no apparent gift for visual comedy to try to essay Chaplin's comic genius is biting off not only more than he can chew but even more than he can comfortably wedge into his mouth.

Despite the recesses in its foundation, almost all of the show's topography, in a beautifully coordinated production by Michael Smuin, is visually beguiling and, although brilliant sets, costumes and lighting cannot make a show, they go a long way towards making this one consistently watchable in a marginal kind of way. But as for recreating the artistry of Chaplin and the complexity of the man, it is a little like trying to focus on a subject using a kaleidoscope rather than a telescope.

Charles Marowitz

Theatre in Edinburgh

Women in Power
Music Hall

John McGrath's "decent adaptation" of Aristophanes is the debut for General Gathering, a new Scottish branch of the 1960s company, devoted to producing classics of popular theatre: *Women in Parliament*, first staged about 1933 BC, has long been ripe for rediscovery by radical theatre, with its central idea, as wittily subversive as that in the better-known *Lysistrata*, of women disguised in their husbands' clothes packing the Athenian Assembly to vote themselves into power for a state where all goods will be held in common and men must provide sex on demand.

In this version, however, it gets wrenched aside in mid-course for a vigorous farcical attack on the one woman who is in power, currently, in Downing Street. Aristophanes' earlier play, *The Knights*, with its onslaught on the demagogue Cleon, provides the model and Mr McGrath has the defeated males stage this episode as anti-feminist propaganda - nonsensically, since Phrynia, and her followers are too good socialists to provide any such threat.

Up to that point the show has been truly dire, slow and, despite everyone's laboured efforts, unfunny. Those of us who stayed after the interval got some above-average Thatcher-beating with a genuinely Aristophanic flavour, puns on the name of Grantham and a missile-shaped phallus (topped with a union jack) on the

lady herself that made its own points about her femininity. Underneath all that, however, a predictable mixture of starchy utopianism with rallying cries to revolution is still there and it is the show's dominant impression. Phrynia, McGrath's score often drops itself Greenpeace in favour of routine rock-musical numbers (permeated by the deadening television clichés that regularly had Aristophanes' heroes rushing for the chamber pot, or a couple of rousing militant ensembles).

Phrynia herself (Carol Kidd) croons her opening solo internally into a mike, then yields her central role to the curiously named Kleonike in her handlebar moustache Elizabeth MacLennan makes a Fascist Villa of Athenian feminism - between whose cast-board persona the sensitivity and honesty of her performance as the skivvy wife in *Men Should Weep* keep breaking through.

After an hour or so as a boring husband revealingly grumbling that women have no tradition of responsibility, Kenneth Bryans earns his bit of fun as a neat transformation of Aristophanes' sausage vendor into a Social Democrat with Roy Jenkins's *Respect* a stall-full of adulterated tripe that includes Roy Hattersley's guts. And, as a ladies' man who suddenly finds himself washing nappies, Jimmy Chisholm presses his feminine wiles into service as "our extremely powerful and spritely Prime Minister" in the sort of portrait mask whose effectiveness has not diminished over 25 centuries.

Anthony Masters

Music outside London

Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra
Christ Church, Oxford

When the English Bach Festival slipped away from Oxford a few years ago to its pastures new, it left a gap in the professional musical life of the city (as distinct from its always flourishing amateur activities). "Music at Oxford", a series of 21 concerts which ended at the weekend, is hardly a parallel undertaking for it uses only one venue, Christ Church Cathedral, and has in its first season been confined to the summer, out-of-term months.

But its programmes, unsubsidized by grants, have been splendid, and, to judge from the packed cathedral on Sunday, it certainly fills a need. It was oddly appropriate that this final concert should have presented the new Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra under Ton Koopman, at the end of a British tour which has not included London; for it was back in 1975 that Koopman's earlier group, Musica Antiqua Amsterdam, appeared in the Bach Festival at Oxford with Philippe Herreweghe's Collegium Vocale of Ghent in a pair of unforgettable concerts.

Koopman's new ensemble is not just Dutch: like its rival, Frans Bruggen's Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century (which visits Edinburgh next week), its membership is international, and the string section, led by Monica Huggett, is almost entirely English. Thus the famed skills of continental wind players are matched with the facility - which continental colleagues envy us - of our string players. The results

in the Fourth Brandenburg were scintillating: Koopman pushed the music along with his white-hot first-best accents, but Huggett swept the phrases of the virtuosic first violin part - so often fired as if from a machine-gun - into convincing gestures, with pauses, rubato, light and shade. Meanwhile the two recorder players clipped lightly and brightly and the string rippling lifted their bows so as to give the finale's fugue theme, for example, a sense of graceful dance which was anything but relentless.

This combination of heady rhythmic impetus and deftness of attack also distinguished Bach's First Suite. I remember the impact of Ka Ebbinge's baroque oboe playing back in 1975, and time has only matured its richness of tone and poise of phrasing. A pity he did not play Telemann's Oboe d'Amore Concerto as originally advertised: Michel Henri's account was cloudy. Koopman's own solo concerto, Bach's A major for harpsichord, was practically inaudible from where I sat: the concert was given in the cathedral crossing, surrounded by audience on four sides. It was left to a couple of spirited numbers from Telemann's *Tafelmusik* to display real exhilaration of well-tuned, cohesive playing on period instruments.

Nicholas Kenyon

Theatre in the United States
Clash of 'reality' and dramatic structure

Chaplin
Music Center,
Los Angeles

After one has reconciled oneself to the fact that Anthony Newley is as dissimilar to Charles Chaplin as John Barrymore was to Fatty Arbuckle, there are certain pleasures to be derived from *Chaplin*, a large-scale musical currently at the Music Center in Los Angeles before going for broke on Broadway. Chief among these are the set-designs by Douglas W. Schmidt, whose Victorian evocations on an adjustable raked stage achieve effects which are almost as subtle as they are spectacular. Most of the show's flashbacks take place in theatre-boxes on either side of a sumptuous nineteenth-century music-hall proscenium and, brilliantly abetted by Willa Kim's costumes and Ken Billington's lighting (a magical combination of projections and back-lighting behind transparent gauzes), *Chaplin* justifies that old saw about leaving the theatre whistling the scenery. It is the most fetching part of an uneven evening.

Newley and his collaborator

Stanley Ralph Ross have, within the confines of the musical comedy format, attempted nothing less than a full-scale biography. The show's Chaplinesque saga is here - the Dickensian poverty, the dermented mother, the musical hall turns, the American tour of the Fred Karno troupe, the early collaboration with Stan Laurel (an uncannily accurate impersonation by Jim MacGeorge), the whirlwind silent screen success, the coming of talkies, the pre-marital and post-marital scandals, the political wrangles and charges of communist sympathy which eventually led to Swiss exile and an emotional let's-kiss-and-make-up reconciliation at the 1972 Academy Award ceremonies.

It is the kind of remorseless historical sequence which, in the context of a well-written book, whizzes the reader from the turn of the century to the modern day with all the velocity of the biographer's art. In a musical, however, one needs a much more selective, not to say fanciful, treatment of actuality. For instance, in the case of Gypsy, where Gypsy Rose Lee's rise to stellar topleness is obliquely chronicled from the viewpoint of a pushy and frustrated showbiz mum. Here, the biographical facts are largely undigested and one is unaware of any interpretation being placed on events - other than that Chaplin was a genius and Newley is out to commemorate the fact.

The moments in which the Chaplin persona are actually evoked are few and far between, the most successful being a revival of the music-hall act in which Mack Sennett is supposed to have first spotted the comedian. This is a rough-and-tumble opera-burlesque (*Madame Butterflies* after Puccini) in which Newley effectively comports himself in the guise of the accident-prone drunk in whom one can already discern the tramp-figure of the early two-reelers. The other highpoints of the evening, a tenuous reproduction of the Lancashire Lads act, one of Chaplin's first stage appearances, and a kind of Pearly King-and-Queen tap-dance, are lively period reconstructions. Whenever the show feeds off the music-hall tradition, it comes astonishingly to life. As soon as it enters the realm of personal reflection and musical commentary on internal states, it dwindles into listless songs and stock conventions.

Chaplin's greatest invention was probably the twentieth-century idea of celebrity. Before him, no one was an internationally-

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THE TIMES DIARY

Red scare

Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West and chairman of the GLC arts committee, has written to Cecil Parkinson, as chairman of the Conservative Party, to protect Ken Livingstone from physical violence. What excites Banks' concern is a remark attributed to Sir William Gibson Clark, the Tories' finance chairman, that if Livingstone succeeds in getting a stand at this year's Conservative Party conference "it would need police protection from some right-wing Tories". This, Banks claims, is an incitement to violence. "Imagine the headlines had a Labour Party representative made such a statement about Labour conference delegates", he says, reasonably enough. Livingstone is determined to organize a GLC stand while the Conservatives are in Blackpool, if not in the conference hotel, then in an adjacent hotel, whether or not Parkinson sends a reassuring reply.

Stay cool

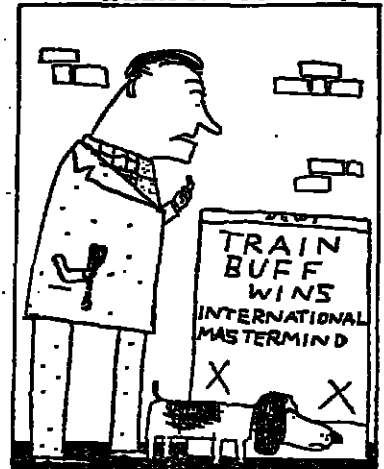
Sir Roy Strong must be glad the heat is off. At the very time that his attack on London theatres was launched in these pages - "human bodies cooped up together in an air-conditioned space" - visitors to his own new Henry Cole wing at the V & A were repeatedly getting stuck in the air-conditioned lift, an hour at a time in barely endurable temperatures, the only firm that could rescue them having to be called from Clapham. The pot may get away with calling the kettle black, but should avoid calling it hot.

● *Sir Philip Goodhart's letter to The Times yesterday asked the most appropriate precious metal, mineral or gem to give his wife for their forthcoming 33rd wedding anniversary. Anxious to help, I looked up atomic number 33 in the periodic table of elements. It is arsenic.*

New view

Somali television burst upon an avid world at the weekend with its first test transmissions. The fledgling service is a multinational effort, with Kuwaitis building the transmission station, Italians setting up the national network and Egyptians training personnel. Iraqis were to be involved, but in the event were too busy killing Iranians.

BARRY FANTONI



"Perhaps he should apply for Peter Parker's job"

Good in part

The most singular show in the Edinburgh Fringe is a one-man performance by the Icelandic actor Vidar Egg. Egg insists that he only plays before an audience of one. He "seeks to explore the actor-audience relationship" and can give his full attention to only one auditor at a time. All his performances have been sell-outs and the price of tickets, yesterday £9, increases by £1 a day. My PHSpy has not seen the show, because no review tickets are available. I do not think this has anything to do with the fact that on Circuit 83, a fairground beneath the Usher Hall, one of Egg's neighbours is a company called Omelette.

● *Dick Turpin has just been appointed assistant manager of the National Westminster Bank's Louth branch. His extra-curricular activities, according to a notice sent to customers, stop at cricket, squash, golf, fishing and motor maintenance.*

Gullstones

Happily for the PHSausage joke contest, only fragments remain of *The Sausage*, a comedy written by the Greek dramatist Epicharmus about 500 BC. Otherwise age would not have deterred readers from sending me the whole text. I have doubts about the freshness of most of the offerings as it is. A. A. Smailes, for example, admits that his "breadcrumbs in battle-dress" dates back to *JTMA*, 1942. I award a sausage clock prize to Ian Wilkes for his, which is bad enough to be original. A German butcher's motto was to leave no turner unstoned, because he specialized in sebird sausages. Every morning he went to the beach to throw stones at the birds, and whenever he hit one would shout: "There's another turn for the Würst!"

An Oxfordshire underwear manufacturer claims that Britain is going bust in a big way. Inflation, Andrew Bryant alleges, has borne the British average bra size up from 34B to 36B, though West German women still "have the biggest busts in Europe with an average bust size of 38 inches". Hoping to flesh this out with a handful of statistics, I rang Marks & Spencer and got that the average bra size is 34B and reports to the contrary are greatly exaggerated.

PHS

Who will succeed the King?



Shamir: best chance of broad backing

Sharon: his support could be vital

Levy: opposition to his welfare largesse

Jerusalem When Menachem Begin confessed that he had heard nothing about the Beirut massacre last September until tuning in to the BBC 48 hours after it began, it should have been clear that something was seriously at fault either with his will or ability to govern.

But in the ensuing months, despite his growing mood of introverted despondency following the tragic death of his wife, the message somehow failed to sink into Israel's national psyche. As a result, this week's undignified and agonizing drawn-out resignation has come as a profound political shock.

As the first news began to travel from table to table in the cafes of Jerusalem's main shopping mall, the customers looked stunned with disbelief. "We must tell him not to go. He is our father. We cannot live without him," shouted one man.

Later, hundreds of distraught people gathered outside his official residence chanting "Begin, King of Israel". Although accepting that their efforts would be in vain, they seemed unable to think how else to react.

The main cause of the intensity of the personal reaction - just as strong among those delighted by the departure of Israel's most hawkish politician - the effortlessness in which Mr Begin has totally dominated the political stage since coming to power in 1977.

Even during his recent decline, he has stood head and shoulders not only above those in his party, but also above any politician whom the main Labour opposition has been able to put up - especially its leader, the distinctly uncharismatic Shimon Peres, shown in the latest opinion poll to be supported as Labour's candidate for prime minister by a derisive 6 per cent of the population.

According to a poll earlier this month, Mr Begin was preferred as Likud prime minister by 42.1 per cent of the public compared with only 8.7 per cent for the runner-up, the former Defence Minister, Ezer Weizman, who has been in self-imposed political exile at his villa in Caesarea since leaving the Cabinet in 1980. Behind him was Moshe Arens, the new Defence Minister, and then David Levy, the able, Sephardi Deputy Prime Minister, who scored 3.1 per cent.

Yitzhak Shamir, now tipped as Mr Begin's likely successor, was even lower down. At the age of 67, it is precisely because of Mr Begin's domination of the ruling Likud coalition and his reluctance to designate an heir apparent to lead his own right-wing Herut party that his sudden departure will pose such problems for the government.

As the *Jerusalem Post* put it bluntly, "It will be the test of whether the Likud does have a life after Menachem Begin, or whether it is simply a function of his political will".

Mr Shamir was being described by his backers as the stop-gap candidate most able to secure broad support in party forums. A former member of the Mossad secret service and a founder of the Stern Gang, the most ruthless pre-state Jewish terrorist group, he was once detained by the British. Since replacing Moshe Dayan as Foreign Minister he has performed solidly but without noticeable impact.

The timing of Mr Begin's departure has ruled out both Mr Arens (regarded as President Reagan's preferred candidate) and Mr Weizman as immediate hopefuls because neither is a member of the Knesset.

The present dire state of the economy appears to have destroyed the leadership chances of Yoram Aridor, the once influential Finance Minister, while the only other possible contender, Ariel Sharon, is still recovering from the near lethal

political blow dealt by the inquiry commission into the Beirut massacre. This has left him relegated to the sidelines as Minister without Portfolio, but his street following could make him an important kingmaker.

This would leave Mr Shamir and Mr Levy - at the age of 45, the darling of the underprivileged Sephardi community and the father of 11 children - to fight it out. Although Mr Levy has far greater grassroots support, it was argued yesterday that he could face vigorous opposition from the Liberal Party, the second largest group in the Likud because of his support for free-spending social and welfare policies. Apart from sharing a similar hawkish approach to future Israeli control of the occupied West Bank, Mr Shamir and Mr Levy both held early jobs as building labourers and both are reported to have gone to the same language tutor to brush up their English.

The succession battle is expected to be tough and quite unlike the almost gentlemanly struggle behind closed doors while Mr Begin was still in power. On the troubled economic front, where inflation is now running at 130 per cent, Mr Begin's eventual successor will face a supreme test of his political skills, as he will in resolving the future of the costly involvement in Lebanon.

Although the future is uncertain, on the key question of Israel's dominance over the 2,200 square miles of the occupied West Bank, it appeared that Mr Begin was close to securing the grandiose wish which he declared two years ago when asked how he would like to be remembered by history. "As the man who set the borders of Eretz Israel (the Biblical land of Israel) for all eternity," he replied.

Christopher Walker

If the sun has to set, don't stand in the way

Our Island Story - a History of Britain for Boys and Girls and Our Empire Story are nice, big fat books, well written, in good print and full of humane patriotism. Though first published at the turn of the century, they are still used to introduce children to history, certainly in my family.

The author, H. E. Marshall, refers to Britain in a preface as "the little island in the West". Such ironic understatement relies on centuries of success and security for its effort. The last thing we have ever been is a little island. True, today some would like to cut us down to size, and edge us eastwards (into the Baltic?), sans Europe, sans defence, sans Nato, sans pretty well everything. The electorate has given its verdict on the isolationist option. But insular thinking takes many forms and is not confined to the left.

The last edition of *Our Island Story* finishes after the Second World War, before decolonization. Mercifully, the penitential breast-beating is at last subsiding.

But it is too soon for serenity, both historically and because we still have three major problems - three islands, as it happens - to deal with: the Falklands; Hongkong; and (stretching the point to a peninsula), Gibraltar.

Having disposed of continents, it would be a pity to stumble over these smaller entities and to finish the course bruised, dusty and disheartened. It is vital to take a non-insular view of the last islands of empire. And that means playing abroad the same burning sense of priorities as we are, at last, at home.

Not for the first time, wet/dry manichaeism distorts the debate. If it is dry (and in my view right) to insist with relentless realism on rectifying our economic shortcomings, can it be wet to suggest that we should keep a stern eye on what really matters overseas? The Atlantic Alliance, the construction of Europe, the Commonwealth, and the urgent exigencies of East/West diplomacy, are neither new nor exclusive concerns. But like Victorian values, they have a perennial force of compulsion and attraction. By comparison, the Falklands, Hongkong and even Gibraltar seem a little peripheral in relation to priorities and resources (especially if Spain enters the Nato military structure). To concentrate on them

to the exclusion of the broader picture is to risk analogy with the peevish provincialism which is the hallmark of the left.

Clearly, we shall never get far on the big issues if we lack principle or purpose on the small. But symbols must not outgrow substance. Islands are very symbolic, but are often appended to large countries or continents. "Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main," is the less quoted corollary of "No man is an island".

Hongkong symbolizes much that is best in the British colonial record (once we draw a veil over how we came by it). Theoretically, part of it is ours in perpetuity, though again the substance intrudes, China being a fairly substantial sort of place. We have clear responsibilities towards Hongkong. I lived there for two years and admire the people as much as anyone. But it would be dangerously Quixotic to inflate our obligations beyond our ultimate ability to guarantee in practice the welfare of its inhabitants.

Given realism and a sense of proportion, there is no reason why we should not reach a settlement combining British interests, rights and duties with Chinese intentions. Hongkong will eat deeply into our diplomatic reserves. The Falklands will swallow another big slice, not to mention the troops and the cash. What more can usefully be said at this stage? It is always worth recalling that it was Mrs Thatcher herself who had the courage to put less-back to the House of Commons in 1980. It was right to do so: it was right to fight, and it is right to win.

At the first moment, which does not preclude some sober reflection on the long-term costs and on possible solutions. Meanwhile, beyond the Falklands, looms a whole continent with all its agonies and opportunities.

Gibraltar, too, is appended to a country of consequence. There is no need to rehearse our obligations to the people of the colony. What does need emphasis are our future relations with Madrid during this sensitive phase of its absorption into the western democratic camp. One way to avoid a choice between our responsibilities towards Gibraltar and a confrontation with renaissance Spain is not to fix our sights unrealistically high in matters concerning the Rock.

Our three "island" problems are perplexing and expensive, but



The style of governments is indivisible. Our revolution of common sense at home must be applied overseas. The parallels are remorseless. Abroad, sound money means a sound Europe, a sound Atlantic, and stable East-West relations.

To sustain friendships and to wear down animosities overseas, you need persistence and a sense of priorities - just as you do to build up business confidence or erode inflation. And internationally, as at home, sacrifices and distasteful compromises are sometimes unavoidable in pursuit of the greater good.

Our three "island" problems are perplexing and expensive, but

soluble - unless we approach them in a spirit of insularity. If we do, we could be sucked into a centrifugal preoccupation with the periphery, with a proportionate decline in our image and influence in the wider world. At home, fleet of foot, we waded by just three apples. So we face something of a challenge. But we have the leadership and the professionalism to ensure that this chapter of *Our Island Story* finishes with neither a bang nor whimper, but with a diplomatic grace note.

George Walden

The author is Conservative MP for Buckingham and a former private secretary to Lord Carrington.

Front-line Europe, not just Brixton

Ten young Turks robbing old people in Berlin called it "doing a granny". Most of them played truant and needed money for Coca-Cola, hamburgers, doner kebab and pinball machines.

In Lyon, France, there was an outbreak of crime among young immigrants who took part in "rodeos" in stolen cars.

In Sweden, foreigners who make up 5 per cent of the population represent more than 16 per cent of people suspected by the police of committing a crime.

Associating crime with immigrants or their children is common not only to Brixton but to much of Western Europe. And the pressures on police dealing with ethnic minorities in run-down inner cities are remarkably similar everywhere.

That is why police chiefs, criminologists and government officials from Western European countries got together yesterday for the first time at a colloquium at Wolfson College, Cambridge, organized in cooperation with the Cranfield Institute of Technology in Bedfordshire. They are searching for new ideas with which to tackle the effects of the post-war immigration on which the prosperity of Western Europe has been built.

Superintendent Jos Molendijk, in charge of policing a vice area in

Amsterdam, says: "It is our firm conviction that in the past five years in cities like Copenhagen, London, Paris and Amsterdam, some 40-odd disturbances have been prevented by local policemen's private initiatives."

In police eyes, the danger possibilities range upwards on a seismic scale from petty crime and violence to parts of European cities going up in flames.

From Amsterdam, gangs of South Americans migrate seasonally, following tourists to the sun. Young male prostitutes and robbers came north originally from the Mediterranean in search of work. They lost their jobs or never had any. Twenty-five per cent of all drug addicts in Amsterdam are of Surinamese origin.

Drugs are an easy source of income for some people of immigrant origin, who bring to Europe echoes of conflict back home. Joachim Jager, of the Police Academy in Hildesheim, West Germany, says that at present charges are pending against 300 Kurds for drug smuggling and trafficking, some of the money being used to finance the Kurds' fight for independence.

Neo-Nazi groups stir up hatred and football hooligans, as in Britain, take out their aggression on ethnic minorities.

André Craen, chief of police in the Belgian city of Genk, speaks of the pressures on ethnic minorities living in an "alien" society and compares present tensions with those in Germany in the 1930s.

What should the police do? Sometimes a blind eye during a football match between Ajax and FC Utrecht, young Utrecht fans displayed a banner with a racist text. The police came in for criticism when they did not interfere. But so did the racist youths. A group of Utrecht fans was so affected that they made public apologies.

The message from papers at the conference confirms that the causes of crime are social and economic and that ethnic minorities suffer from the bad effects of both. No single agency, including the police, working by itself, can eradicate it.

The effort in Britain to win community support is echoed in other European countries where police work with other agencies in tackling social ills and anticipating trouble. In Genk, social workers are employed to work with police. In France, an inter-agency campaign to help young people to find jobs, provide them with adventure courses and help them to learn a trade, is thought to have had an effect.

No-one should be surprised that police throughout Europe are wor-

ried about race problems; and many who have seen them at first hand will know that the methods they use are not necessarily the same as those they talk about. Nevertheless, whatever they do in the streets, the powerful impression left by the papers is that social causes of crime require social action.

Professor John Brown, of Cranfield, says: "The relationship is much more between crime and multiple disadvantage than the colour of the skin. We ought to be looking at race in the context of disadvantage rather than disadvantage in the context of race."

No one makes that point more clearly than Colin Guest, an assistant governor in the prison service doing research at Cranfield. He says in a paper: "Although the available official population statistics reveal that in London and the South-East young black males in the region of two to one, a survey of almost 5,000 young offenders in custody in London and the South-East between 1981 and 1983 showed that within penal establishments, young Asians were outnumbered by young blacks by a ratio of 22 to one."

Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Beware Japanese bearing jobs

In Japan, so legend has it, age prevails. We in the West are inclined to think that a business with an octogenarian chairman needs a boardroom revolution. In Japan, so we are told, the weight attached to a chairman's whims grows with the passing of his eightieth birthday.

So the news from Nissan comes as a considerable shock. Ever since the scheme for building Nissan cars in Britain was first mooted all those years ago, I have put my faith in its venerable chairman, Katsuo Kawamata, who by all accounts was dead opposed. So was I, and I have not changed my mind. But now we read that Mr Kawamata has changed his mind, it looks as though Nissan is on its way at last.

Why, then, look a gift-horse in the mouth? Five thousand jobs, probably in an unemployment blackspot, and tens of thousands in component factories and the like; access to Japanese technology, management skills and harmonious industrial relations: what could be wrong with that? Quite simply that it is not a gift-horse at all. We buy it, and it is going to be a poor bargain.

We do not know the exact price tag. But after allowing for automatic regional development grants, with a handsome dollop of "selective assistance" from the Department of Industry on top, we are unlikely to see much change out of £150m.

In return, as we were again assured in March, Nissan's "objective" would be to produce at 80 per cent local content, after a build-up from 60 per cent. Well, we shall see. There have been some circumstantial soundings reports of Nissan's worries about the quality of UK components. Suppose they arrive, set up shop and in due course reveal that, alas, they cannot find precisely what they need, and will have to continue importing components from Japan? Does the Department of Industry demand our money back and close the factory? As Eliza Doolittle remarked, "Not bloody likely!"

Then there is the matter of where Nissan UK products will be sold. I suggested once that the French, and probably the Italians, would turn British-assembled Nissans back at the ports, only to be told that that would be against EEC rules. Here again, we shall see. But in the light of France's latest move against the BL/Honda Accord, it would be a brave man who put his faith in the Rome Treaty to hold the door open

to Nissan. The French have long regarded us as Japan's Trojan horse in Europe, and Nissan is the sort of development they would not accept.

Last, but by no means least, there is the British domestic car industry. We have pumped more than £1,000m into BL and hundreds of millions more into Rover/Chrysler/Talbot - where the Department of Industry is just now trying to stop Peugeot doing anything nasty at Ryton. On top of that, we have handed over many tens of millions to persuade Ford to go - no thought to its subsequent regret - to Halewood, and more recently to Bridgend.

Subsidizing rival concerns with taxpayers' money has always struck me as a funny game. But at least BL is as British as they come, while Ford and Chrysler/Talbot have done a lot of real manufacturing here. Biting Nissan to set up a competing plant sounds daft.

This is not an argument against overseas investment or in favour of protection. France's much publicized wheeze of channelling all Japanese vehicles through Poitiers is a classic case of cutting off the nose to spite the face. Since the French do not make vehicles, the only possible beneficiaries are the Germans and the Dutch, and the only possible sufferers the French consumers, who have to pay more.

If Nissan wished to set up shop here at its own expense, good luck to it. Paying Nissan to do so is a different matter altogether. When Patrick Jenkin told the Japanese a few months ago that if they refused to accept a container-load of sovereigns for a UK factory then we would not let them sell their cars to us at all, they must have wondered if they had heard aright.

Perhaps it may not happen. Perhaps the excellent Mr Kawamata will change his mind again. Perhaps the outburst by Mr Ichiro Shioji of the Nissan trade union will scare the board. If so we shall be deeply in their debt, although I don't suppose it will be seen that way. The new jobs are what it's all about and it is part of the ethos of the Department of Industry - not to mention the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland offices - that new jobs in place of those already in existence are a snip. After all, it is not their money they are bargaining with.

The author was Economic Secretary to the Treasury in Mrs Thatcher's last government.

James Curran

Bosses who keep a little list

For many years Roy Medvedev, one of Russia's leading historians, has been unable to get a teaching job. He has joined the shadowy group of non-persons in the Soviet Union who cannot get employment in their chosen field because they write and say things deemed to be subversive.

His plight is little different from that of a growing number of non-persons in Britain blacklisted because of their political views. Perhaps the best known is Derek Robinson, a kindly and impressive working-class intellectual who for many years was the senior convenor at BL's Longbridge plant. The crime for which he was dismissed - without any written or verbal warning - was the joint authorship of a thoughtful pamphlet, *The Edwardes Plan and Your Job*, that advocated an expansionist strategy for the company he worked for. It contained, however, a brief passage which management held to be unacceptable. "In other industries like UCS (Upper Clyde Shipbuilders), work-inns and occupations have been necessary to prevent closures. If necessary, we shall have to do the same."

As a free-born Englishman, Robinson had every right to express a point of view different from that of management, including citing the example of what the Upper Clyde shipworkers had done to defend their jobs. Yet he has never worked again in the car industry. As a known communist militant, he never will.

But the way that non-persons are created in Britain is generally less conspicuous. In the past 10 years many companies have adopted increasingly formalized procedures for vetting job applicants in a way that systematically screens out well-known militants.

The Institute of Directors is an enthusiastic advocate of this form of ideological policing. "Our advice," Wendy Hutton, the institute's press officer, told me, "is to step up vetting procedures and look out for trouble-makers who apply for jobs. They have to be stopped."

The way this has been done varies between different companies (with some still rightly refusing to operate a system of political screening). But documents shown to me suggest that the misuse of references to demand and obtain information about workers' political leanings and union commitments has become depressingly widespread in the past decade, even in nationalized industries. For example, Roy Roebuck, works manager of a BSC subsidiary at Greenwicks, asked the personnel manager at BSC's Ebbw Vale works: "I would also be interested to learn whether the applicant mentioned below has a background of political involvement."

In some companies this ideological vetting takes the form of blackballing union negotiators who are not compliant. "Disruptive attitudes when acting as shop steward... would you re-employ?" No," reads one chilling assessment from the Holiday group.

As the *News of the World* put it, "mole-hunting (and make no mistake, the red variety are not cuddly, furry creatures) is not a sport in Britain. It is a necessity". The same message was put differently but, in a way, more meaningfully, by a paper read by many personnel managers. "The need for care in the recruitment of labour," warned the *Daily Telegraph*, "cannot be overstated."

Fleet Street's grand inquisitors are now busy for more blood and, in some cases, extending the definition of "moles" to include, as Bruce Kemple of the *Sun* put it, "left-wing disruptives".

In a guide to "10 ways to ferret out a red mole" he listed such "give-away clues" as a liking for Channel 4, being "anti-American", reading "long in-depth articles about the state of the war in Nicaragua".

Such articles would be merely funny if they did not have a darker side. Men and women should not be denied jobs which have no national security significance because of their political views. And the growing tendency ideologically to vet applicants for manual clerical jobs (in a way that would rightly produce a howl of outrage if extended to the middle-class professions) represents an ominous shift towards Soviet-style ideological policing. Liberty, as George Orwell powerfully argued, means allowing people freely to say things you do not want to hear. It is a definition of freedom worth defending, as we move towards 1984.

The author is editor of *New Socialist*.

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CAN LEBANON EXIST?

There is a sort of parallel between the internal situation of the Israeli government and the problem it faces in Lebanon. Mr Begin has made up his mind to withdraw from the political arena, and his government has made up its mind to withdraw from the Chouf. Both decisions reflect a mixture of sheer weariness and the knowledge that to stay on involves considerable risks, with little to be positively achieved. Yet both have caused consternation among friends and allies, because of the vacuum they threaten to leave. The implementation of both was postponed yesterday "for a few days" in response to pressure from these friends and allies. Yet in neither case is it at all obvious that the problems will be solved any more easily during the period of postponement than they would be once the decisions have taken effect.

The two crises are not of the same order, however. Israel's internal crisis is a "normal" crisis, of the sort that might attend a change of leadership in any country. One man has dominated the political scene for six years. Another will somehow be found, or, at most, the opposition may come to power. Decisions will be taken, if not always the right ones, and in any event the state will carry on.

No such luxury for Lebanon, whose very existence is increasingly in question - a question of which what Israel does or does not do in the Chouf is only one small part. And the existence or non-existence of the Lebanese state, though it most immediately concerns the Lebanese themselves, has become a matter of considerable concern to many others. Even we in Britain are involved in it, as the shots fired at our soldiers in Beirut yesterday painfully remind us. This time they escaped unhurt, luckier than their French and American

colleagues. But it would be wrong to assume that their lives are not in danger. The way things are going in Lebanon now, there will be a next time, and a time after that.

Not that anyone supposed, when the decision was taken to contribute ninety-seven Dragoon Guards to the multinational force in Lebanon, that they were not going to be in any danger. If the moment comes when the multinational force is in no danger, that may well be the moment when it can and should be brought home.

Short of that, what should determine the maintenance or removal of the multinational force is not the degree of danger it is in but whether it is achieving the objects for which it was sent there. These objects were essentially two: to assist in the restoration of the authority of the Lebanese state throughout Lebanese territory, and to ensure the safety of civilians while that was being done.

The hope then was that successive infringements of Lebanese sovereignty by foreign forces (Palestinian, Syrian, Israeli - each of them initially welcomed as allies by one or more Lebanese parties) had at last brought about both a Lebanese national consensus and the opportunity to put it into effect. "There have been three nation-builders of Lebanon," as one European observer put it, "and their names are Arafat, Assad and Sharon."

The bulk of the Palestinian forces had gone. The Lebanese Christians were as anxious to see their Israeli "liberators" go home as were the Lebanese Muslims to be rid of their Syrian "protectors", and Syria and Israel were both thought to be willing to go provided the other went too. Even Bashir Gemayel, formerly an extreme partisan leader, had been close, by the time of his death, to acceptance as a focus of

national unity. His brother Amin, always the moderate within the Phalangist leadership, seemed even better equipped for that role. With help from his Western friends, it seemed, he had a good chance of success.

Alas, those hopes seem vain now. They have been thwarted in part by Syria's refusal to withdraw but also, crucially, by the fact that there are still significant Lebanese forces willing to throw in their lot with Syria rather than with the Lebanese state in its present form. Those forces do not hail only from the part of the country occupied by Syria, where they would have little choice, but from the Israeli-occupied south and from the crumbling shantytowns of southern Beirut where, unfortunately, the imposition of Lebanese government authority has not brought respect for the institutions behind it. Rather the reverse.

Perhaps precisely because he lacked his brother's record as a tough leader of the Christian side in the civil war, President Amin Gemayel has not confronted the sectarian elements in his own camp with the firmness that was necessary if his authority was to be accepted among Druzes and Muslims - particularly Shiite Muslims, Lebanon's largest and most underprivileged community - as well. His state and his army have behaved, as our Middle East correspondent recorded in his article yesterday, too much like a Phalangist state and army, not enough like institutions belonging to all the Lebanese.

Attempts to remedy this are still going on, and the powers contributing to the multinational force should not incur responsibility for their failure by withdrawing abruptly or prematurely. But if it proves that there is in fact no Lebanese national consensus, the premise on which the multinational force is based will become invalid.

THE POLYTECHNICS' OPEN DOOR

The proportion of 18-year-olds with Advanced Level passes who then proceed further up the educational ladder to attend university or college has recently picked up. Indeed at the current 88 per cent, the "qualified participation rate" is touching the record levels of the 1960s. Then, of course, higher education was fashionable; our national pride was bound up in the expansion of academic opportunity; public regard for both red bricks and polytechnics was high.

Glamour has now faded. There is doubt whether a high participation rate should be a cause for celebration or concern. Celebration should surely be muted: higher education beckons more and more 18-year-old school leavers when the alternative is of uncertain employment or even joblessness. For Mrs Thatcher's Government concern has been predominant, with both treasury and education ministers preoccupied (as well they might be) by a bulge of adolescent numbers working through the sixth forms and colleges at a time of supposed expenditure restraint.

The Government, having laid aside many issues of academic reform left over from that hurried 1960s expansion, has sought to cut higher education spending without necessarily incurring the odium of turning away qualified students. The Department of Education has been attempting to reduce the unit cost of educating students in all the institutions but, finding the downward drift of cost more difficult to attain in the universities, has apparently countenanced a marked rise in the

number of students being enrolled (hence a cheaper unit cost) in advanced education outside them. "Apparently" is a necessary qualification. In the tortuous world of polytechnic finance - polytechnics being still, despite their size and academic sophistication, creatures of councils - central government rarely directly disposes. Intended or not there has been a striking reduction in the past three years from £2,670 to £1,960 in the cost of educating a student on those polytechnic courses which do not involve extensive laboratory work. The same figure for the universities has barely dropped.

This policy has had much to commend it. Read any report of the Chief Inspector of Audit up till 1981 and it is difficult to resist the conclusion that many polytechnics had costs inflated by under-used buildings and under-occupied staffs. Expanding student numbers in the polytechnics has, in theory, often cost only the marginal amount of the student government grants for tuition and accommodation, from which strict public accounting ought to deduct the total of unemployment or social security payments saved.

But in practice the marginal cost may also have involved a reduction in academic quality. The University Grants Committee has insisted that student intake must be reduced in line with spending cuts in order to protect teaching and - the university function often forgotten by civil servants and ministers - research. Has the time now come when polytechnic directors ought also to curb their appetite for student numbers?

The answer supplied yesterday by the officers of the National

Advisory Body for local authority higher education was yes - that the system of polytechnics and colleges must grapple with the qualitative issues posed by the Government's expenditure plans and reduce student intake accordingly. The body (one of the more unwieldy quangos created in Mrs Thatcher's time) is now to discuss a set of proposals for financing courses and student enrolment, the aim of which is to preserve the quality of the academic and vocational courses by pruning here and closing there. As the UGC discovered in 1981, this strategy causes much pain to the institutions affected; but far better surgery than progressive deterioration.

The National Advisory Body is presenting the Government with the fruits of its overall education spending policy. It is saying - without discussion of the merits of looking education for savings - that contraction can be managed. But now there has also to be faced a politically distasteful result: slamming the college door in the face of qualified applicants who, turned away, may face only unemployment.

So far the elasticity provided by the slack management of the polytechnics and colleges in the 1970s has eased the consequences of the spending policy for the would-be students. The Government is now being told that from 1984-85 that let-out must end. The choices are: more students and a reduction in quality or a stabilized student enrolment (cutting the participation rate) while keeping standards up. Being a polite quango a third option is not mentioned. That is to review the policy for higher education in its entirety.

MR MEACHER'S NUCLEAR BOMBSHELL

Mr Michael Meacher, who is regarded as doing duty for Mr Tony Benn in this round of Labour Party elections, has elaborated his subversive thoughts about the democratic centralism which the far left of the party uses as its model. He was talking about security policy and unilateral nuclear disarmament. He did not believe Labour could win an election unless it had majority support for its defence policy, so crucial is the issue of security. But "even if it did win, but without clear evidence of majority public support for unilateral renunciation of Polaris, I believe that an explicit test of public opinion, if necessary by a referendum, should be carried out before an absolutely fundamental decision of this kind was implemented."

He was not, he hastened to add, knocking conference decisions. He was not in any way changing or seeking to modify or reverse conference policy, which in this matter he strongly

supported and would continue to speak to with conviction. "All I am doing is seeking moral authority to implement it." All he is doing is shooting holes in democratic centralism.

The model up to now has been perfectly simple. The party conference, as the democratically convened and sovereign organ of the party, decides policy. The policy is written into the manifesto. The party candidates, elected to power by the people, receive a mandate to implement the policies in the manifesto. They are authorized by the voters to do so, and are under a duty to the party conference to do so.

Mr Meacher sabotages the edifice twice. First he says there is no simple transformation of manifesto into mandate. If it appears (to whom? Dr Gallup?) that a fundamentally important section of the manifesto does not, taken in isolation, have majority support, a further test

of its acceptability is called for before it should be proceeded with. Second he says that a policy decision of conference is not in all cases moral authority enough for a Labour government to proceed to implement it. It needs further endorsement. That is to claim even more independence from the conference than orthodox parliamentarians of the Labour party are wont to claim. They claim latitude on the timing and order of priority of conference decisions that achieve the rank of party policy. Mr Meacher seeks moral authority from some other quarter before putting them on the agenda of government at all.

Those who prefer the parliamentary to the party model of political legitimacy will welcome Mr Meacher's own goal - though they may look askance at the use of the referendum to decide an issue of defence policy. But what of those who counted him a true party man of the left? Back to the dream ticket?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Political implications of going private

From Dr Craig R. Pickering

Sir, Your leading articles of August 17 and 22, and other recent articles in your newspaper, air the major economic implications of privatisation. But they do not bring out as fully as they might the political implications of this policy.

It is right to mention, as these articles do, the effect on the relations between senior managers of privatised industries and ministers. But there are other political points to be made. For privatisation and other methods of reorganising the public sector can be seen as a way of redistributing power and influence from the state to citizens.

Such political questions as our right to use the media of communication as we think fit and the state's freedom to tax us are inherent in the fact that certain industries are nationalised or run by the Government itself. By privatising them, the Government may shift the balance of influence away from itself towards the citizens. To that extent, privatisation is a political as well as an economic and financial act.

Such political considerations need to be taken into account, particularly when looking at proposals for reorganising rather than a nationalised industry. The citizen may think that he or she will enjoy no increase in influence or power over the provision of goods and services from such an industry, or anything else affects. One set of masters will simply have been exchanged for another.

The probability that the new set will have different views, to an extent, on how the industry should operate, from the old is not enough, in political terms, to justify reorganising the industry. Democratic theorists of various persuasions might propose new institutional constraints on the industries and the regulatory bodies. The latter might, for example, be elected, rather than, as politicians usually propose, nominated.

Such constraints might hamper the commercial operations of the industry in question. Such pessimism seems premature, however, especially when set against the importance of such industries in our political and economic life.

Much work remains to be done before answers to the questions I

have raised, and others on similar lines, can be provided in the case of particular industries. But it does seem to me that any account of privatisation that concentrates on the economic dimensions at the expense of the political runs the risk of telling half the story. The history of nationalised industry is a comment on the consequences of such an approach.

Yours sincerely,
CRAIG R. PICKERING,
Institute of Public Sector Management,
London Business School,
Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, NW1,
August 26.

From Mr Ewen C. Watson

Sir, Your leader (August 17) extols the economic and political arguments for the privatisation of state assets in competitive parts of the economy, in principle, while noting the complications of the real world.

The article refers to resource misallocation (inefficient activities taking up resources which could be employed for more worthwhile activities) without giving due consideration to the effects of a depressed economy.

Rather than being redeployed to worthwhile activities, the resources of land and machinery would dilapidate, human resources would add to the potential pool of labour, while capital would be swallowed up in Government expenditure.

However, in a thriving economy, with a shortage of resources (land, labour and capital), the transfer of state assets to private hands would release resources to enterprising activities.

Therefore, in the present economic circumstances the social, political and economic costs of privatisation need to be weighed carefully.

An imprudent sale of state assets may further depress an economy if a large proportion of resources are excess to requirements. One must privatize, only on prosperous days.

Yours faithfully,
EWEN C. WATSON,
89 Dunstan Crescent,
Workshop,
Nottinghamshire,
August 18.

Balance of terror

From Mr Neil Kinnock, MP for Islington (Labour)

Sir, During TV-am's breakfast programme on August 28 Mr David Frost asked me whether I agreed with the reported view of Mr Arthur Scargill that President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher were "the most dangerous duo" who "jointly present a threat to world peace."

In reply, as the TV-am transcript and recording of that interview show, I said: "It is a matter of open record that I would fundamentally disagree with that view of the balance of terror in the world and that was on a greater length to say that the arms race between the power blocks has a momentum of its own and constitutes a 'miserable equity of threat'."

Belton House plea

From Mr Timothy Kimber

Sir, I wonder whether Lord Brownlow is as confused by his cousin, Mr Hoos's curiously channelled advice (August 18) as I am.

Mr Hoos appears to be urging Lord Brownlow to follow both of the two options open to him. On the one hand he is acknowledging the right to preserve an inheritance for the family. On the other he is pleading that Belton be given to the National Trust. Presumably the obstacle to Lord Brownlow's receipt of "the roars of applause from the family vault" is that the two options are mutually exclusive.

Belton is indeed a wonderful part of Britain's heritage and its future is of great importance. However the problems of its present owner, possibly exacerbated by the stewardship of past generations, are surely part of a wider issue.

An increasing part of the nation's heritage is being dislodged from private hands by the present capital tax regime. On top of this there is the problem of ever escalating current expenditure which in many cases far exceeds a very modest income. What,

Your front page headline on that story yesterday (August 29), "Scargill peace view backed by Kinnock", and the report by your Political Correspondent, Mr Anthony Bevins, that I "endorsed the view of Mr Arthur Scargill" are obviously serious distortions of what I actually said and clearly meant.

I am aware that rectifying letters do not have the same impact as front-page headlines. I nevertheless use this means of correcting your thoroughly misleading presentation of the story in the hope that accuracy of reporting will make up for prominence of misreporting.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL KINNOCK,
House of Commons,
August 30.

if any, persons or institutions do the Government imagine will now take on the burden of the maintenance of such properties?

Without considering the philosophical case for such tax arrangements, the fact is that those institutions, led by the National Trust, which are attempting the task are already unable to cope. They have increasing numbers of insufficiently endowed historic properties being offered to them by others facing Lord Brownlow's dilemma.

When one considers Mr Hoos's confused and contradictory letter one can perhaps understand Lord Brownlow's reluctance to confide in him. What is less understandable is Mr Hoos's preference for public rather than private communications.

The facts of the matter are that, unaided by Mr Hoos, Lord Brownlow has put together a set of conditions of sale for Belton which has been widely described as being exceptionally imaginative and public-spirited.

Yours faithfully
TIMOTHY KIMBER,
Belton House, Lincolnshire,
August 21.

TV and religion

From Mrs Ann Marsh

Sir, Whilst I agree with Canon Martin (August 22) that the TV religious programmes need to cater for the housebound and elderly, I think they have a huge contribution to make in the widening and deepening of the average churchgoer's faith. We need to hear of other people's visions and difficulties if our understanding of the worldwide church is to grow.

TV also gives the Church an opportunity to educate Christian thinking by making available the wisdom and spirituality of some of its finest teachers, on our basic tenets of faith and their relevance to life today.

I know of many Christians who will welcome a viewing time which does not clash with normal services in the local churches, but surely the hundreds of thousands of Christians and well-wishers in our land have a claim to a better time than 2pm, when the potential audience are still involved with a meal which is, for many, the most family-centred meal of the week.

Yours sincerely,
ANN MARSH,
30 Plains Lane,
Hampstead, NW3,
August 22.

Youth training

From Mr K. N. Atkinson

Sir, In his letter in today's Times (August 25) the Director of Youthaid expressed concern that the Youth Training Scheme may have some of

the shortcomings of the Youth Opportunities Programme, which is now ended.

The main difference is that for the first time young people can expect 12 months' high quality work-based training. Participating employers are required to provide a structured programme, including at least 13 weeks off the job. Criteria for the training programmes have been drawn up with the help of employers, trade unionists, educationists and voluntary organisations.

The work-experience element will be better planned than before. Far from increasing the risk of trainees not being offered jobs these factors are more likely to persuade employers to keep them on afterwards. But participation in the Youth Training Scheme cannot guarantee a job at the end: this is not its function.

Area manpower boards, who are involved in approving schemes, include representatives of the organisations named above. They have the enormous task of securing places for up to 460,000 trainees in this first year of the scheme - a programme on a scale not yet tried in any other country.

We hope that organizations like Youthaid with the interests of young people at heart will do all they can to secure the development of this new scheme on a sound basis.

Yours faithfully,
K. N. ATKINSON,
Director of Youth Training,
Manpower Services Commission,
Training Division,
Morfoot, Sheffield,
August 25.

Inferno in a green and pleasant land

From Mr James Mitchell

Sir, The landscape stretching northwards up the Avon valley to Marlborough, westwards over Stonehenge and southwards again to Salisbury from Beacon Hill above Amesbury can make one of England's most enchanting summer views.

Returning home from holiday along the A303 last Friday afternoon that magic was dispelled by a vision of desolation.

Lowering behind a thunderbank of cloud a blood-red sun filtered down over Stonehenge as one imagines a spent nuclear fireball in the aftermath of a holocaust. Under the clouds field after field in the landscape was blackened or was still blazing and belching black smoke all across the bowl of this most Arcadian of English valleys. Hardly a hedge or a tree, it seemed, could have survived the wrath of the flames in that inferno without singing, scorching or burning - and many haven't.

And the wildlife. Not a bird was singing, not a butterfly was about when I reached home through the smog. How many creatures had died, I wonder, in the fields that day?

No fisherman could fish on the river on Friday evening. The walkers in the valley could not walk with any pleasure. Visitors to England's most famous monument wasted their journeys.

Today the fires started again. Everyone admires our farmers for having achieved so much in improving this country's agricultural productivity since the war. But, equally, no industry would be allowed to get away with the danger, filth and heartbreak which the farmers now expect by right to be allowed to inflict on this lovely English countryside every year through strawburning.

Gone are the days when a bonfire in the country was a joy and a rite of passage. Large-scale strawburning is a plaguesome of the new economic prairie farming, but there have to be reasonable restraints even on the most sensible of agricultural reforms.

Many local people here, I believe, feel that the farmers, after refusing repeated requests to exercise adequate controls on strawburning, will have now to be respectfully obliged by law to stop the pollution

of the countryside - just as, in the end, industrialists had to be obliged by law to desist from poisoning our cities.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MITCHELL,
Tassel,
Wiltshire-cum-Lake,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
August 29.

Bracken spraying

From Mr J. E. B. Wells

Sir, May I make one or two comments on Lady Sayer's rather emotively worded letter of August 25, with references to "toxic spraying", calling to mind the defoliation programme in Vietnam, and to the public being "chased off" Haydon Down?

Firstly, the land she writes about is not open common but is privately owned and wholly enclosed by stone walls though it is subject to common grazing rights and it is traversed by a road and a bridleway, with gates at each end.

Principally, though, does Lady Sayer realise that the recurrence of bracken is the main enemy of heather, the loss of which the amenity societies are so rightly concerned about, together with bilberries and other interesting species? Bracken spraying will not destroy these because they cannot co-exist with bracken.

Subsequent liming to improve the heather and inhibit the recurrence of bracken, I agree, will not encourage heather, which we should all like to see more of because of its value as winter grazing, but it is better to have moorland grasses than high, tick-infested bracken, both for farmers and for walkers and picnickers.

The spray material has been drunk with no ill effects and I am told that a goldfish has been kept in the solution that is usually applied.

Finally, though, while public access is tolerated all over Dartmoor it is taking this de facto right too far to seek to use it to curtail normal farming operations on enclosed land.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. B. WELLS,
Creaber, Gidleigh,
Chagford, Devon,
August 26.

Service broadcasts

Group Captain G. H. Pirie (retd)

Sir, The members of the Broadcasting Division of the Services Sound and Vision Corporation (the BFBS) and the servicemen they entertain will be hard put to recognise the present state of the BFBS from the letter of their former director, Mr Ian Woolf, published in your issue of August 11.

Mr Blaker, the former Minister (Armed Forces) announced to the House of Commons on March 26 last year that the SSVC, formed by the merger of the BFBS and the Services Kinema Corporation, would continue to provide, at no extra cost, the high standard of service then provided.

The SSVC has been in existence for just over a year; it has been a period of energetic and encouraging activity and I am confident that the Government's expectations will be fulfilled. Of the 66 established staff of the BFBS with more than two years to serve before normal retirement, at the time of the

merger, all except five have transferred to the SSVC.

I have seen for myself at the overseas stations that we continue to provide a service greatly valued by our servicemen and their communities. The relationships between the broadcasters, the MOD and the commands through the chain of the council, of which the Adjutant General is president, the board of management and advisory committees, supported by professional audience research, are working very satisfactorily.

As chairman of the SSVC I was proud to become associated with the broadcasters. The morale of the staff at the broadcasting stations is uniformly high; they know that they are doing a very worthwhile job within a new and forward looking organisation.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON PIRIE, Chairman,
The Services Sound and Vision Corporation,
Chalfont Grove,
Gerrards Cross,
Buckinghamshire.

Body and mind

From Dr Sally Jobling

Sir, Having followed with interest your recent articles and correspondence on "alternative medicine", may I suggest one reason why its growing popularity is that it supplies a commodity seldom available on the NHS: consultation time.

NHS GPs and consultants are normally limited to five to 10 minutes per patient, whereas in the private sector consultations last for up to one hour. It is not surprising that patients appreciate this extra time devoted to their problems.

I feel that whilst NHS doctors are handicapped by the present system, the drift away from the NHS and towards any alternative will continue.

Yours faithfully,
SALLY JOBLING,
Eurohealth Clinic and Diagnostic Center,
Dubai Trade Centre Residences,
Bldg 1, Apt 206,
PO Box 11748, Dubai,
UAE,
August 21.

A cause for railing

From Mr D. H. Colvin

Sir, Perhaps the most unsightly and regrettable long-term consequence of World War II on London is also the most unremovable - the poor quality, or in some instances the complete absence, of railings around many important buildings and public parks.

Compare the ornate magnificence of the railings of the Paris Mouscrou in Paris with the pathetic post and rail which currently encircles St James's Park or the tatty chicken-wire of Vincent Square, SW1. If France had not collapsed so suddenly in May, 1940, and had fought a more heroic war like Britain, the railings of Paris might also have been transformed into Chars B or Morane-Saulnier fighters. But, if so, priority would surely have been given to their restoration once the war was over.

Why was this never done in London? Shortage of metal? Cost? Whatever the reason, it is too late to rectify the position now?

Yours faithfully,
D. H. COLVIN,
15 Westmoreland Terrace, SW1,
August 25.

A view of Hackney

From Mr Peter Craft

Sir, Mr Kaufman (feature, August 22) was unkind to select Hackney as the text for his sermon on the evils of government policy. Hackney, in all its squalor, at present the poorest local government area in Britain, is a monument to socialism and nothing else.

With one short break, it has had Labour administrations for fifty years. Countless relief, projects, rate grants, industrial grants, and almost every conceivable subsidy have been poured into it. The results cannot be presented as anything other than a complete and unambiguous condemnation of socialist administration and Mr Kaufman's policy of flinging other people's money at other people's problems.

Enterprise has been stifled by ludicrous rate levels: one business there is paying only fractionally less in rates than a prime site at Oxford Circus would cost it and the council wonders why unemployment is over 20 per cent. The massive rates have driven out most small businesses, and drawn in and demotivated by the subsidies the feeble and indigent. The subsidised council rents effectively render it impossible to move out, and make it impossible to provide a decent standard of repair and maintenance for the slum estates that disfigure the borough.

A third of the population is of New Commonwealth origin, at every turn urged by the council's panoply of community workers, race-relations advisers, and other agitators that their disadvantages can only be remedied by external action. Meanwhile, alongside them live descendants of the Jewish immigration of 1890-1910 whose forebears attained prosperity, in the face of far crueler difficulties, by self-help and hard work.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CRAFT,
27 Kensington Road, W5.

Breakfast fare

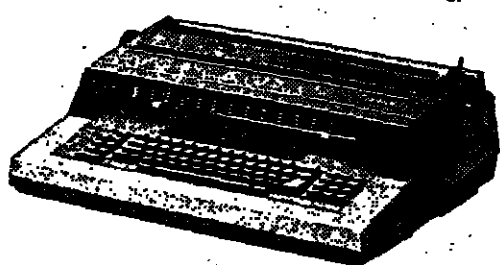
From Mr N. A. Oppenheim

Sir, Your back page "Anniversaries" section today (August 23) gratuitously informs me that Sir William Wallace, a Scottish national leader was hanged, beheaded, disembowelled and quartered in 1305. Apart from the unnecessary overkill involved, this information spoiled my breakfast.

Just stick to the dates, please. Yours faithfully,
N. A. OPPENHEIM,
61 Park Road, Chiswick, W4,
August 23.

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MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

Shares continue to drift

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 15. Dealings end, Sept 2. Contango Day, Sept 5. Settlement Day, Sept 12.

Investors decided to treat themselves to an extended Bank Holiday break yesterday as share prices continued to drift on lack of support at the start of the final leg of the long three-week account.

The latest industrial survey from the CBI made gloomy reading as it forecast a falling off in output next year.

Friday's US money supply figures did little to help sentiment. The M1 figures fell by \$200m - just slightly above the 5 per cent to 9 per cent target range set by the Federal Reserve Board.

The decline was less than expected, but the bond market appears to have lost some of its confidence. As a result, gilt fell by more than 50p in London as hopes of a cut in US interest rates took another knock.

Leading equities closed above their worst levels help by a firmer opening on Wall Street, but the FT Index failed to halt its recent slide, closing 5.8 down at 7163 having been 6.6 lower at 5pm.

Only those blue chips boasting strong US institutional support resisted the trend, with ICI 16p higher at 550p after bullish noises in the overseas press. American investors now own more than 8 per cent of the company's shares.

Glaxo was another firm market, climbing 20p to 815p. About 20 per cent of the shares are now traded on Wall Street. But Boots slipped 6p to 172p.

Tottenham Hotspur's televised home game with Nottingham Forest on October 1, may provide the backdrop for the first details of Spurs' decision to become Britain's first fully-owned football club. Mr Paul Boddy, a director of Spurs, says: "We are aiming for around that date". The market is looking for forecast pre-tax profits of £1.5m and the bookmakers are offering odds of eight-to-one for Spurs to win the championship.

Morgan Guaranty has bought a number of American Depository Receipts and plans to start dealing tomorrow. Boots recently received the go-ahead from the Federal Drug Authority to market its anti-rheumatic drug, Ibuprofen.

Over-the-counter in the United States.

Elsewhere, BTR fell 5p to 537p, Blue Circle Industries 7p to 428p, Bower 4p to 112p, GKN 5p to 178p, Marks and Spencer 4p to 206p and Vickers 3p to 120p.

The Irish oil boom appears to have run out of steam. Shares of Atlantic Resources tumbled 65p to 275p yesterday after Gulf Oil announced disappointing findings in its test report on the Celtic Sea.

Other casualties included Aran Energy down 10p to 410p and Eglinton Oil 35p to 165p. Less than a month ago shares of Atlantic Resources stood at less than 21 before spurring to a new high of 515p as hopes of an oil boom swept Ireland.

Among the oil majors, BP slipped 2p to 436p still awaiting details of the government's planned sell-off. Shell was also a weak market, sliding 4p to 614p. Among the insurance companies, Guardian Royal Ex-

change lost ground tumbling 10p to 516p ahead of figures today. The analysts appear undecided on the outcome, with estimates ranging from 547m to 558m against 535.7m last time.

Shares of Midland Bank go fully paid next week after its recent £155m rights issue. Wood Mackenzie, the brokers, are recommending both classes of shares as strong buys. The brokers say the subscription price of 350p offers a cheap way into the ordinary, a present standing at 432p, and will provide a saving of about 10p after stamp and commission.

Whispers of bumper profits this year from Cornhill Dresses boosted the shares 17p to 250p. The group headed by Turkish entrepreneur Mr Asil Nadir is said to be on course for profits of more than 28m this year.

Mr Nadir's plans to merge all three of his publicly-quoted companies is still expected to be completed this year.

Hartson Nominees has bought 190,000 shares in Home-Centres Newspapers, a subsidiary of County Newspapers and publisher of local newspapers in Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Hartson's stake amounts to 7.6 per cent of the equity.

Other big shareholders include County Bank with 12.53 per cent and Clydesdale Bank with 6.6 per cent. News of the purchase did little for the shares, which closed unchanged at 110p, 5p short of the year's high.

Simon Engineering has bought 2.5 million shares in Drake & Scull, the electrical, mechanical and general engineering, at an average price of 120p a share. This amounts to 13.8 per cent of the equity. Shares of Drake & Scull ended the day 2 1/2 higher at 119p, while Simon closed unchanged at 398p, after 400p.

Ferguson Industrial Holdings has sold its entire stake in Finlay Packaging. Brokers W. Greenwell have placed 1.94 million share capital. Finlay closed just a whisker short of the year's higher at 37p.

BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY BELL'S

RECENT ISSUES	Change
Aluminium 25p Ord (115p)	115
Aluminium 10p Ord (30p)	30
Aluminium 5p Ord (15p)	15
Aluminium 2 1/2p Ord (7 1/2p)	7 1/2
Aluminium 1 1/4p Ord (3 1/4p)	3 1/4
Aluminium 3/4p Ord (2 1/4p)	2 1/4
Aluminium 1/2p Ord (1 1/2p)	1 1/2
Aluminium 1/4p Ord (3/4p)	3/4
Aluminium 1/8p Ord (1/2p)	1/2
Aluminium 1/16p Ord (1/4p)	1/4
Aluminium 1/32p Ord (1/8p)	1/8
Aluminium 1/64p Ord (1/16p)	1/16
Aluminium 1/128p Ord (1/32p)	1/32
Aluminium 1/256p Ord (1/64p)	1/64
Aluminium 1/512p Ord (1/128p)	1/128
Aluminium 1/1024p Ord (1/256p)	1/256
Aluminium 1/2048p Ord (1/512p)	1/512
Aluminium 1/4096p Ord (1/1024p)	1/1024
Aluminium 1/8192p Ord (1/2048p)	1/2048
Aluminium 1/16384p Ord (1/4096p)	1/4096
Aluminium 1/32768p Ord (1/8192p)	1/8192
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Aluminium 1/131072p Ord (1/32768p)	1/32768
Aluminium 1/262144p Ord (1/65536p)	1/65536
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Aluminium 1/8388608p Ord (1/2097152p)	1/2097152
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Investment and Finance

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 718.3 down 5.8
FT 100 Index 79.41 down 0.19
FT All Shares 454.52 down 2.78
Bargains 17,087
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 100.53 up 0.05
New York Dow Jones
Averages 1195.85 up 2.54
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,195.92 up 23.38
Hong Kong Hang Seng
Index 971.08 down 10.72
Amsterdam 147.7 down 0.2
Sydney AO Index 895.2
down 0.3
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index 914.30 down 1.60
Brussels General Index
132.69 down 0.40
Paris CAC Index 135.9
down 0.7
Zurich SKA General Index
283.3 up 2.5

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling £1.4980 down 25pts
Index 85.2 up 0.4
DM 4.03 up 0.023
FF 12.13 up 0.08
Yen 370.25 up 0.75
Dollar
Index 129.3 up 0.5
DM 2.6885
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling £1.4980
INTERNATIONAL
ECU 0.566246

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 9½
Finance houses base rate 10
Discount market loans week
fixed 9½-9¾
3 month interbank 9½-9¾
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10½-10¾
3 month DM 5½-5¾
3 month Fr 15½-16
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 5½
Treasury long bond 10½-10¾
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for
interest period July 8 to August
2, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per
cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$418.85 pm \$418.10
close \$417.50
New York (lastest): \$418.10
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$430.50-432.00 (\$287.50-
288.50)
Sovereigns (new):
\$88.25-89 (\$85.25-86)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

INTERIMS: Arbutnot Govern-
ment Securities Trust, Babcock
International, I. J. Dewhurst,
Guardian Royal Exchange,
William Jackson, Johnson Mat-
they (Quarterly), Nu-Swift In-
dustries, Owners Abroad
Group, Thomas Robinson, G.
W. Sparrow & Sons.
FINALS: Associated Dairies
Group, East of Scotland On-
shore.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Cluff Oil, 58 St James's Street,
SW1 (10.30): The Fleming
Technology Investment Trust,
P&O Building (2nd floor);
Forshaw Burnwood Brew-
ery, The Brewery, Burnwood,
Nr Warrington, Cheshire
(11.00); Great Portland Es-
tates, Brown's Hotel, Dover
Street, W1 (3.00).

NOTEBOOK

Half time profits of £16.1 from
the Ladbroke Group, the
betting shops to hotels com-
pany, disappointed the market
which had hoped for better.
Profits were up by 20 per cent
on the previous period, and
reflect higher occupancy in the
hotels and stronger margins on
the betting side. The interim
dividend has been increased
by 10 per cent to 4.07p.
CRA, the Australian mining
group which is 53 per cent
owned by Rio Tinto-Zinc, made
interim net profits of \$522m
(\$12m) against a loss of \$529.2
for the same period of last
year. A dividend of 3 cents has
been declared. Sales, which for
the interim included Omnicore
as a subsidiary, rose from
A\$903m to A\$1,530m and
earnings per share were 5.1
cents instead of a loss of 6.7
cents. The company says that
demand and prices for most
minerals were higher in the first
half and that the trend is
continuing. Most of the subsid-
aries and associates increased
their contributions.

Markets expect M1 to slip further from Fed's target range

Dollar marches on as fears grow of US money supply bulge

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The dollar surged ahead on currency markets yesterday as dealers faded their obsession with United States money supply figures.

Disappointment over the more \$200m fall in M1 announced last Friday soon gave way to concern about the expected bulge in monetary growth in the weeks ahead, which it is believed, will push M1 further outside the Federal Reserve's target range.

However, by late afternoon the dollar was running out of steam. Having touched DM2.6885 in London and begun to weaken in New York markets after the Fed injected reserves into the system with \$1.5bn of customer repurchases.

Dealers interpreted the Fed action as a move to stabilize United States interest rates. Last week it drained reserves with reverse repurchases after the key Fed funds rate fell below 9 per cent.

But yesterday Fed funds had moved up from the 9½ per cent of Monday to about 9¾ per cent which dealers believe is as high as the Fed would like.

Starting was dragged up by the dollar yesterday rising nearly 2½ pence to DM2.685 and 3 pence to FF12.13. In contrast, the dollar against the yen fell to \$1.499 - down 25 points - but its trade-weighted value rose 0.4 to 85.2.

Although there is still reluctance to sell dollars, there are signs of growing disenchantment in the markets with the strength of the US currency. "There are many more people willing to sell the dollar, if they were convinced others would do the same," one dealer said yesterday.

One argument frequently put forward suggesting that the dollar will begin to weaken is the burgeoning US trade deficit. On Monday the dollar suffered a temporary setback, while London

markets were closed for the Bank Holiday, after US trade figures were announced. But the reaction was short-lived and attention soon returned to money supply.

Dealers believe that the Federal Reserve is pursuing a neutral policy towards monetary growth. However, there are worries that

M1 figures due on Friday could show a rise in money supply of \$500m to \$1.5bn and further large increase is expected the following week.

In recent weeks M1 has come closer in line with the target range but figures over the next fortnight could push it well outside the

range once again. There is concern in the markets that this would once again push up United States interest rates.

Reacting to the overnight fall in United States bond prices, gilt-edged stocks closed yesterday with losses of up to 2½ at the long end of the market.

Japan trade surplus at record \$3.7bn

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Japan recorded its highest trade surplus on international trade in goods of \$3,760m last month, with exports nearly 5 per cent up on a year earlier, according to official government figures released yesterday.

This is in sharp contrast to the \$6,360m US trade deficit for the same month announced on Monday.

So far this year Japan has run a vivacious trade surplus of \$16,500m, putting the country on target for a record \$30,000m surplus this year.

Japan's export success, notably in high technology such as video tape recorders and sensitive industrial sectors as motor vehicles, has

prompted anxiety in Europe and America that Japan will corner the lion's share of the benefits from economic recovery, hitting output and jobs in their domestic economies.

Japan has been a major beneficiary of the American economic revival, its exports boosted by the weakness of the yen against the sky-high dollar. Despite its low inflation rate and strong balance of payments position, the yen has been weakened by huge capital outflows to take advantage of higher interest rates in the United States. Pressures for protection against Japanese goods have been particularly strong in a post record trade deficit of up to \$70,000m this year.

Britain reschedules loans of £400m

By John Lawless

Britain has had to reschedule more than £400m in official debts owed by countries which have got into economic difficulties, the Export Credits Guarantee Department will announce shortly.

The rescheduling agreements have been negotiated in the last 11 years but five of them came in the ECGD's financial year ending in March.

The publication of the figure for the first time, although small when set against the commercial debts rescheduled by banks, will underline the growing problems faced by all state-run export insurance agencies.

The £400m relates to 16 agreements for longer repayment periods negotiated since 1972, some of which will already have been repaid. But the fact that five came into ECGD's last financial year, emphasizes the increase in cash-strapped buyers of western goods.

What is more, another six countries are known to be awaiting the start of various bilateral negotiations, having had

their applications to reschedule agreed by the Paris Club.

Poland, however, is not among them. If, as now seems possible, the West recommences negotiations over Polish debt, that will only add to the burden of the ECGD and others.

ECGD's exposure in Poland has shrunk from almost £1.1bn when Nato halted rescheduling talks in protest over martial law, to about £700m.

This is by no means only accounted for by claims from British exporters. Large sums have been wiped from its books because projects to which it had committed insurance, have been cancelled. Short-term business has also stopped.

The publication by the ECGD of names, and the sum it has rescheduled, is part of an effort to kill rumours that its activities have become a drain upon the taxpayer.

It will reveal how it is heading for the red on its commercial account - but that it still has substantial reserves in its national insurance.

Dow up 3 points in moderate trading

New York (AP - Dow Jones) - Stocks held onto part of their early gains, yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial average was up more than 3 points at the 1,197 level. It was up more than 3 in early trading.

The transportation average showed a rise of about 5 1/2 points.

Advancing issues were 7-105 over declines. Trading continued moderate although ahead of Monday's unusually downcast session.

International Business Machines was 118 3/4, off 1 1/4; **General Electric** 49 3/8, up 1/2; **General Motors** 68 3/8, up 1/4.

WALL STREET

Monsters 106 3/4, off 1 1/4; **Warner Lambert** 27 3/4, up 3/8; **Texaco Instruments** 114 1/2, unchanged; **Caterpillar** 38 7/8, off 1/2; **International Paper** 54 1/8, off 5/8; and **Motorola** 128 5/8, up 3/8.

Halliburton was off 7/8, at 43 5/8; **Typhlore** down 1 1/8, to 21 7/8; **Times-Mirror** up 1 1/4, at 77 1/2; **Stamco** Precision up 2 1/4, at 53; **Katy Industries** off 7/8, at 21 7/8; **Southern Pacific** up 1 1/4, to 39 3/4; **Digital Equipment** up 2 3/8 to 98 1/2.

Panel to study two more complaints about BPCC

By Andrew Cornallie

Fresh complaints about the tactics used by British Printing & Communication Corporation in its takeover fight with John Waddington were lodged with the Takeover Panel yesterday.

The Panel was given details of two more instances where callers allegedly claiming to represent BPCC telephoned Waddington shareholders saying that BPCC had a higher percentage of bid acceptances than was the true figure. This brings the total number of cases being investigated by the Panel to five.

Mr John Hignett, director-general of the Panel, said that the Panel is still waiting for written evidence from the Waddington shareholders who claim to have been called by BPCC representatives in the last stages of the company's £18m takeover bid for Waddington.

A decision is likely today on whether to call a full meeting of the Panel to examine the allegations. If proved, they would constitute a serious breach of takeover rules governing declarations on acceptances during a bid.

The shareholders who claim to have been called by BPCC representatives include Mrs Jane Whalley, a lawyer living in Yorkshire and Mrs Ruth Bower, wife of Mr Christopher Bower, finance director at Waddington.

Representatives from Henry Ansbacher, BPCC merchant bank adviser, and Kleinwort Benson, which is advising Waddington on the bid, have already given evidence to the Panel.

BPCC has extended its takeover offer until a week today. Details of acceptances were unclear last night.

Consumer nations' differences with Opec narrow

New hopes for oil pricing accord

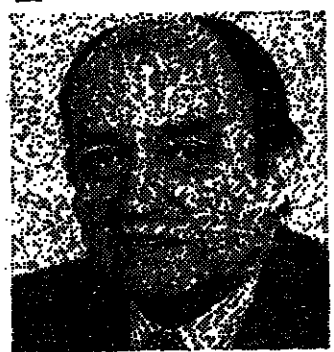
By David Young
Energy Correspondent

A summit of the world's oil producers and the oil consuming nations is being proposed to avoid a repeat of the confusion over prices which happened in the late 1970s.

Proposals for talks between producers and consumers which could result in a long-term pricing policy were mooted in June when the four-man monitoring committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, met French cabinet ministers, under the chairmanship of M Claude Cheysson, the French foreign minister.

The proposed establishment of such talks fits in with the long-term strategy proposed by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister, according to *Petroleum Intelligence Weekly*, the oil industry's influential newsletter.

Opec has suggested talks with officials of the consuming nations, and the differences



Cheysson: Summit suggested at June meeting.

between producers and consumers have always been so great that such a meeting has been rejected by governments particularly the US, which has kept Opec at arms length.

The newsletter suggests that the differences are now so narrow that talks could start and a

committee of 10 "wise men" drawn from the producers and consumers could be formed before the end of the year. Diplomatic talks on the subject are likely to start early in September.

Opec has also reports within which it is the US companies who buy up to 80 per cent of Saudi Arabian oil output are "irritated" by a new company set up by Saudi interest to sell oil on the spot-market.

Previously, oil which was not sold to the US ARAMCO consortium was marketed through Petromin, Saudi State oil company.

Now there is evidence that 10 per cent of Saudi output is appearing on the spot-market when Saudi output is running at 500,000 barrels a day above its Opec agreed quota of 5 million.

A new company, Norbec, with its head office in Switzerland and sales representatives in London, Houston and Hongkong, are selling Saudi crude directly to refineries.

The sales by-pass those handled by the Aramco members, Exxon, Texaco, Mobil and Standard Oil, but are not offered to any of the consortium existing outlets.

An Aramco spokesman said that the creation of the new company was directed against the consortium.

Opec officials suggest that the setting up of Norbec was a result of Aramco cutting purchases of Saudi oil last winter when the Saudi state oil agency refused to take part in the discounting which was then taking place.

Oil industry analysts say the Saudis have continued to buy from them at previous levels, particularly in 1981 Saudi prices remained stable when others rose.

In London it has been suggested that the high-technology jargon used in the oil industry should be rewritten so that people outside the industry can understand the significance of discovery announcements and reserves quoted by producing countries.

KCA sale upsets meeting

By Wayne Linott

Shareholders of KCA International, the oil exploration and services group, have expressed bitter disappointment over the price the company received from the management buy-out of its majority stake in the KCA Drilling subsidiary.

At yesterday's extraordinary general meeting to pass the sale, dissident shareholders were quick to remind directors that they had recommended the purchase of Drilling shares at 95p when a 25 per cent minority was floated over two years ago. The parent company was now selling the remaining stock at 37p a share.

Mr Paul Bristol, chairman and chief executive, spoke in favour of the deal, but, becoming angry, passed over board response to his merchant bankers and fellow directors.

Wondered

The shareholders wondered why, if Drilling had such a good future and was going to be supported by the Chemical Bank, KCA needed to sell it at such a price and why it could not be the sale for later when perhaps it would be more profitable.

Contradiction claims made recently by Chemical Bank, Mr Bristol said that the Drilling subsidiary had been draining the group of cash and had starved the other divisions of working capital.

The Chemical Bank, whose idea it was to separate the two and which had promised Drilling shareholders a 25 per cent share in the financial support, claimed KCA International was draining off funds generated by Drilling thus preventing its profitable expansion.

Mr Bristol claimed the time to do a deal was now and that anything could happen - "The drill rigs could get blown up" - to complicate it later. He also claimed that Drilling's cash needs were mainly responsible for group gearing rising to 130 per cent of shareholders' funds, which was "totally unacceptable", and that this deal reduced gearing to 10 per cent.

Controversy then moved on to a \$6.7m loan note being the balance owed to KCA International for the management buy-out after a \$15m cash payment. Mr Bristol argued the note was worthwhile for two reasons. It generated 9 per cent interest per annum and could be converted into 18 million Drilling shares - 23 per cent of Drilling equity - at any time over the next seven years at 37p a share or if the Drilling share price hit 75p for a week or more.

Unimpressed

The dissident shareholders, though were unimpressed. They drew up a list of demands as the Chemical Bank had first charge over the most valuable Drilling assets and if the directors felt the Drilling share price hit 75p or more in the future why did they wait until then to sell it and get 75p for all 60 million shares.

The resolution was passed with 1,500 voting in favour and more than 100 against.

Weir dividend is cut as rescue rules bite

By Jeremy Warner

Weir Group, the Glasgow engineering company, has been forced to cut its interim dividend by a half to 0.375p after pretax profits in the first six months of the year slipped by £1.4m to £2.2m.

The 0.375p per share is the maximum the company can pay under articles of association imposed by the banks and shareholders involved in a £16m financial rescue two and a half years ago.

The articles, which are designed to offer the maximum protection for those who provided money during the rescue state that any ordinary dividend must be at least twice covered by available earnings.

Lord Weir, the group chairman, hinted that the company

might have paid more but for the restriction. "The reduction purely reflects the requirement in our articles of association," he said.

"What we might have paid but for this is a bit of an academic question. The constraint is there so we could not give consideration to a higher payment."

The final dividend looks likely to suffer the same fate since in order to maintain the amount paid last year, the group must make pretax profits of at least £5.6m.

The company said that results during the second half are expected to be generally similar to those of the first which would indicate a full year profit of no more than £4.4m against £7.6m last time.

On the stock market, Weir's share price fell to a year's low of 27p. It later recovered to close 49p down on the day at 30p.

The six-month profits were struck after taking account of the £1.2m cost of transferring pump manufacturer from Alcoa, in Scotland's Central region, and concentrating it at the Cathcart plant of Weir Pumps in Glasgow.

The move that involved the loss of a further 430 jobs in the pumps division.

Profits were also affected by the lower contribution of associates from £1.6m to £436,000. This was caused largely by Pump Services Centres, which has been badly affected by a lack of orders from the Middle East oil industry. It slipped into losses.

Investor's Notebook, page 16

Lord Weir: dividend payments restricted

Sotheby's decision due soon

By Philip Robinson

A government decision is expected within a fortnight on whether Mr Alfred Taubman, an American millionaire, may buy Sotheby's Park Bazaar, the world's largest auction house.

Mr Taubman, who ranks among America's richest men, plans to pay \$83m for the auctioneers. He has bought out his opposition, fellow Americans Mr Marshall Cogan and Mr Stephen Swid, who opened the bidding for Sotheby's.

Both takeovers are being investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But the commission has concentrated on Mr Taubman since Messrs Swid and Cogan said they would sell their shares to Mr Taubman if he was allowed to buy Sotheby's.

Sotheby's financial year ends today. At the half-way stage, reported in July, it had cut losses from £1.5m to £1.1m and was forecasting a 44m pretax profit for the whole year on a turnover unchanged at about £272m.

That would indicate a 47m turnaround - the group lost £3m for the year to August 1982 - and analysts suggest the company is capable of £10m profits. Last night the shares eased 2p to 662p.

Sweden seeks record loan

IN BRIEF

Sweden is raising £250m through the largest sterling syndicated loan ever, the agent bank Samuel Montagu & Company said.

The deal calls for a six-year, non-callable loan with options to extend it up to 12 years. At the end of three and six years, lenders have the option to extend the life of the loan to nine and 12 years, respectively. Lenders will receive a 0.12 per cent fee for the first extension and a 0.25 per cent fee for the second.

For the first two years, the loan will be priced at 0.38 per cent over the London interbank offered rate for one, three or six-month sterling deposits at the borrowers' choice. The spread will rise to 0.50 per cent over Libor for the duration of the loan.

Sweden will draw 50 per cent of

the loan within 60 days of signing, set for mid-October. The remaining half will be a revolving credit for two years with an annual commitment fee of 0.25 per cent.

Generali Oriental, the Hong-kong registered company controlled by Sir James Goldsmith, has sold the retail division of its US offshoot, Diamond International. The buyer is a US holding company, Michigan General Corporation. It is paying \$120m dollars (\$80m). Generali Oriental's shares were little changed at 505p on the news.

Scotland's largest independent insurance brokers GT Senior have entered the London market by forming a new joint company, Senior Wright, with Lloyds

brokers F E Wright UK, a wholly-owned Lloyds subsidiary.

Elys (Wimbledon) the stores group, has pushed attributable profits up to £10.6m for the six-months ended July against £7.4m the year before. It will pay an unchanged 1p interim dividend on December 5.

Singapore Airlines (SIA) has reported a 112.9 per cent rise in profit to Sing \$47.7m (£14.9m) from its airline operations in the year ended March 31, although group profit fell 16 per cent to Sing \$103m.

Australia's 1983-84 wheat crop may be the second largest on record, according to estimates released by the government of agricultural economics forecasts a crop of 17.7 million metric tons, second only to the 18.1 million tons harvested in 1978-79.

Double up at Francis Parker

Francis Parker Half-yearly to 30-6-83
Pretax profit £505,000 (£245,000)
Stated earnings 1.74p (0.80p)
Turnover £12.3m (£10.2m)
New interim dividend 0.525p (0.035p)

Francis Parker, the building materials group, more than doubled its pretax profits in the first half and expects to achieve a substantial increase for the year as a whole.

The company cited the mild winter and the upturn in house building as the reason for the increase.

It is looking at various opportunities to combine its expertise in the design and manufacture of building materials such as building blocks, with property development.

Vaux buys four London pubs

Sunderland-based Vaux Breweries has paid £750,000 for four London pubs - its first in the capital. The four, including Holborn's Princess Louise, had gone into receivership.

Vaux had to top rival bids from at least two other provincial breweries which were keen to develop London operations.

The four pubs were part of a group, including three small breweries, which were at one time being groomed for a stock market share quote.

Until now Vaux had just one London outlet - the London International Hotel which it acquired two years ago from grand Metropolitan.

City Editor's Comment

Slippery slope to oil agreement

Stability in currency and commodity markets is something always generally agreed as a good idea. But it is much harder to get great nations to agree on the compromises of their self-interest necessary to secure practical deals.

The results are there for all to see, not just on the foreign exchanges but also in the deceptively sharp rises in the dollar prices of most commodities this year. Individually, these are not enough to worry economic managers.

Collectively, they threaten most economies of the world with an upsetting source of inflation. After all, weak commodity prices have helped cut inflation as well as bankrupting developing countries over the past three years.

Apart from the price of money, the price of oil is now the most important for the world economy. So there must be considerable interest if the French are taking serious steps to organize a meeting of oil producers and consumers to thrash out future prices.

There are two main obstacles to any such agreement. First, they do not work. Second, the state of the market seems always to one side's advantage, making it unsympathetic to what it sees as the other side trying to protect itself from market forces.

Yet there are now at least outside hopes for progress on an oil deal. Most commodity agreements fail because there is no effective export control agreement on the part of producers, because there is not enough money committed to stabilize market prices or because swing countries that are both producers and consumers or like the US have huge stockpiles, do not care to respond to market signals.

For once the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is now showing itself capable of efficiently organizing export quotas, though it remains to be seen how long this will last.

As for the swing countries, the position is more confused. Britain's energy department, when under Mr Nigel Lawson, the

present Chancellor, made a striking about-face at the last London conference of Opec, coming out in favour of stable markets rather than smashing the Opec cartel when it was groggy.

The US, unfortunately, does not yet seem to have reached this new state of realism. And as the Administration has recently pulled out of two established, if unsuccessful, agreements on other commodities, there is now reason to look for enthusiasm from that source, however much the Germans, Japanese, the Saudis and now some more recalcitrant oil producers may want to deal.

Henderson waits for OECD call

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, once known familiarly as the Treasury in exile, has a peculiar fondness for British economists, and one that does not seem to have been dampened one whit by the comparative failure of the British economy to perform.

Within the next week or so the OECD is expected to announce the appointment of Professor David Henderson, who at present holds the chair of political economy, at University College, London, as the next head of its economic and statistics section, to succeed Mrs Sylvia Ostry who is returning to Canadian government service.

Mrs Ostry is the only recent exception to a virtually unbroken line of British economists stretching back to the foundation of the OECD after the War, including three who subsequently went on to be chief economic advisers to the Treasury. But Professor Henderson - an economic "centrist" in the Keynesian-monetarist debate - is in a rather different mould to most of his predecessors.

For one thing, his primary interests have been in micro rather than in macro economic problems. Could the OECD's traditional - and now

Forecasts cut as Ladbroke weighs in light

Ladbroke Group
Half-year to 28.5.83
Pre-tax profit £16.1m (£13.4m)
Statutory profit 7.2p (7.4p)
Turnover £371.6m (£353.4m)
Net interim dividend 4.07p (3.7p)
Share price 214p, down 11p. Yield 5.8

Ladbroke is a favourite leisure stock, but after profits failed to reach the anticipated £18m forecasts for the year were downgraded to the £17m-£40m range.

Caution about the future was compounded by the unexpected doubling of the tax charge to £5.6m. It had been expected to continue at about 20 per cent.

On the retail betting side, operations benefited from firmer margins which gave a boost to its profits contribution even though the business is not intrinsically a high margin one.

Margins have been firm by hard going on the racetracks which tends to help the favourites and to lead to higher rates of withdrawals by outsiders. Moreover, market share has been growing. Ladbroke claims more than 17 per cent of the British market through its 1,250 shops. It also has hopes of persuading more US states to legalize off-course betting.

Ladbroke is claiming higher tariffs and higher occupancy rates for its hotels. This suggests an encouraging trend towards heavier business use among the provincial hotels though actual

charges rather than published tariffs probably still show discounts.

London hotels have benefited from more foreign tourists and a weaker pound, factors which have helped both occupancy and tariffs.

Lasky's - the electrical retailers - has benefited greatly from Ladbroke's cash backing which has attracted back the big Japanese names which have previously abandoned the chain.

The property sector has seen a welcome improvement in the market climate, especially for the hard-hit British industrial property sector. In the US the Westchester development's third building has gone under offer, which means the development's first phase is fully let.

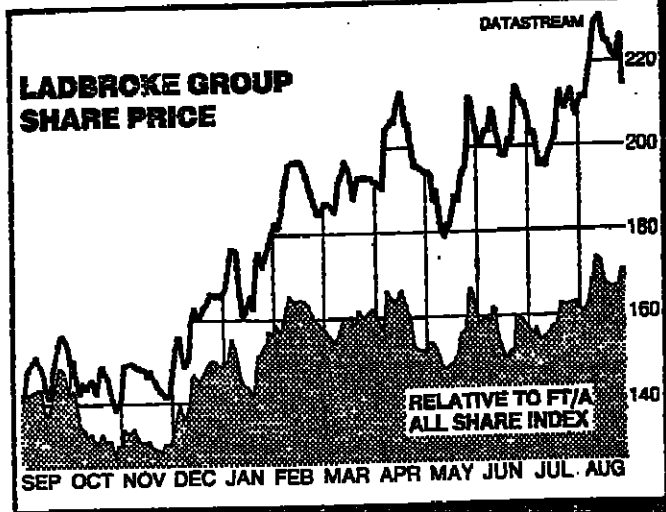
However, the acid test for Ladbroke's property business will come early next year when the prestige Savoy and Piccadilly redevelopments in London go on the market.

Ladbroke remains the strongest leisure group but there is a price for everything and with a prospective PE of about 12 for the full year it is beginning to look expensive.

Weir Group

Weir Group
Half-year to 1.7.83
Pre-tax profit £2.2m (£3.6m)
Statutory profit 0.5p (0.5p)
Turnover £260.8m (£27.4m)
Net interim dividend 0.375p (0.75p)
Share price 30p down 4p. Yield 6.3%

Weir Group was put on a sounder financial footing by the rescue two-and-a-half years ago,



but the 50 per cent cut in the interim dividend shows how long the shareholders will have to wait.

Under articles of association put into force when the £16m refinancing was arranged the group must earn at least twice as much as the cost of ordinary dividends. The preference dividends make the task that much harder.

The company will clearly have a monumental task to maintain the final dividend. Current trading is slow, and because losses at home cannot be set against overseas profits, the likely tax charge is 50 per cent.

At half-way, pretax profits were £1.4m lower at £2.2m. To come near maintaining last year's dividend under the twice-covered formula, the group must make pretax profits of £5.6m against

£7.6m last time. But Weir says gloomily that the second half is expected to be similar to the first.

The profit is mainly in the associated companies where Pump Services Centres has dipped into the red because of the recession in the Middle East oil industry.

Weir Pumps is also making lower pretax profits because of the rationalization programme at Alcoa, Clackmannanshire, where 430 jobs are being lost. That will cost the group £1.2m above the line this year.

Weir Group is often used as a showcase of how financial reconstruction can save a basically sound company from receivership.

It has also now shown that, considering the depth and persistence of recession, there are going to be quite a few hiccups along the

path that leads from financial rescue.

The 4p fall in the share price to 30p demonstrates how rough will be the ride for the ordinary shareholders. If anything, the rating may be a little on the generous side.

CRA

CRA
Half-year to 30.6.83
Net Profit AS22m (AS29.2m loss)
Statutory earnings 5.1 cents (6.7 cents)
Turnover AS1,530m (AS903m)
Net interim dividend 3 cents
Share price 348p Yield
Dividend payable 3.11.83

It is a sobering thought that CRA, in which Rio Tinto-Zinc has a 53 per cent stake is one of Australia's biggest companies but for years has made a pitiful return on assets.

The return to profits after a lean period will undoubtedly vindicate the faith shareholders and the market have shown in CRA, and will be equally welcome in St James's Square, but they do not change by one iota the underlying problem.

CRA is a kind of musclebound giant. It has huge assets, but has a hard time turning them into profits. To some extent, of course, this is not the company's fault. Mineral prices have played all mining groups, even though quickening of the American economy, to which Australian natural resource companies are finely tuned, has brought some relief. As luck would have it however, coal, iron ore and lead

are still resisting the upward trend in prices.

CRA has also had to grapple with high interest rates and a somewhat perverse currency policy. Some benefit has been derived from rates being lower last year, although still fairly high in real terms, but the gain from the 10 per cent devaluation of the Australian dollar in March have largely been eroded by the subsequent renewed appreciation. Against that, the weaker Papua/New Guinea kina inflated receipts from Bougainville.

But when all is said and done, a company like CRA has to live with such difficulties, and what really matters is the demand outlook.

In common with other mining companies, CRA is highly geared to changes in demand, particularly if they come with price movements. It is promising, therefore, that sales in this half were AS1,530m (AS903m), compared with AS903m, or AS1,270m if Comalco is included as a subsidiary, which it now is, rather than an associate.

Ironically, Comalco was one of the handful of subsidiaries and associates - the others being Asbestos, Coal and Colas - which did not improve their results. So the final earnings per share figure would have been higher had it not been for the tax provision of AS133m being AS42.6m more than expected.

CRA should manage at least AS50m for the year, and could do much better. Yet that would be less than 1.5 per cent of sales. There is still a long way to go before the giant's muscles are well used.

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY PRICES
Rubber in C's per tonne
Coffee, cocoa, sugar in pounds per cwt
Gas-oil in US \$ per metric ton

Commodity	Price
COFFEE	
Arabica	177.17-178.00
Robusta	158.00-159.00
Latex	158.00-159.00
Time: Steady	
SUGAR	
White	172.75
Yellow	172.75
Time: Steady	
COPPER	
100lb	194.00
Time: Steady	
LEAD	
100lb	141.00
Time: Steady	
ZINC	
100lb	105.00
Time: Steady	
STEEL	
100lb	105.00
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IRON	
100lb	105.00
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WHEAT	
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BARLEY	
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Lloyd makes good start at new-look Flushing Meadow

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Yachting: sport as it once was in the America's Cup

Victory turns a Nelsonian eye to defeat in contesting every wave

From David Miller, Newport, Rhode Island

There are only five factors which could give Victory '83 any real hope of defeating Australia II in the America's Cup final eliminations series, and none of them offer much scope for optimism. This was reaffirmed when the Royal Perth challenger outlasted her British rival on Monday only for the race to be ultimately abandoned.

Peter de Savary concedes that it is the misfortune of his planned \$3m campaign to have come up against a brilliant, innovative and still as determined as his crew were when six minutes down, to fight the Australians through every wave and windshift.

Yet these are only long-shot possibilities which might result in obtaining even one win in the best-of-seven series to decide who challenges America for the cup.

1. An increased aggressive attitude in the 10-minute starting manoeuvres before the gun which would force the Australian helmsman John Bertrand to overreact and get disqualified on protest. 2. A large element of luck on a major, favourable windshift. 3. An error such as the one which allowed the Australians to do so on the second downwind leg on Monday which allowed Rodney Pattison's shrewd judgement on the helm to pick up almost four minutes. 4. A superior start in which Victory '83 is either substantially ahead or Australia II crosses the line early and is recalled. 5. Or the heavier weather above 14 knots with lumpy seas in which the Ian Howett design is thought to lose the differential.

The plain truth, emphasized in Monday's plain sailing, is that which at times flitted away to three knots or less, is that Australia II is on average one and a half minutes faster on windward legs in 10-knot winds and half a minute to one minute slower downwind, which in conjunction with her one fifth of a length advantage on every tack is sufficient to guarantee victory if the start is level and Bertrand makes no mistakes. This advantage is magnified in time difference the more the races.

Monday's race, abandoned after just over five hours, halfway down the final windward leg when it was obvious the 5 hours 15 minutes time limit would expire, lends substance to the accusation of Dennis Connor, helmsman of Liberty, that the Australians were "sabbaging", or going slow, in

the semi-final race won by Victory '83, when Bertrand failed to exploit his tacking advantage. In spite of strong demands it suddenly makes sense that the Australians would do nothing in that "dead" race to jeopardize crew gear.

The contradiction in de Savary's handling of the campaign could not have been more heavily and ironically underlined when he roared out for Monday's start in his 35-knot powerboat Lisnola with Henry Cadmore and Bryan Willis sitting side by side on the aft sundeck.

Cudmore, visiting Newport in a hull between other commitments as possibly Britain's best helmsman, is the man who might have narrowed the gap with the Australians but left on mutual agreement several months ago when de Savary refused to compromise his squad system by making the Irishman overall skipper.

Three weeks ago de Savary also controversially dropped his other chief starting theorist, Phil Crebbin, and it is significant that an American invited to coach the British crew has declined to do so unless Crebbin was in the afterguard.

Willis, who runs a yachting school on the Isle of Wight and is the country's leading race expert, has been retained by de Savary exclusively to advise on start manoeuvres and possible ways of putting pressure on the opposition which might have forced them into a critical error.

As we mill around with the hundreds of other spectator boats gathered for the start 8 miles offshore, Willis starts observing: "The difference between fleet racing and match racing is as wide as between running and boxing. If you see the chance of a knockout blow, you deliver it."

North American crews again did well when the international 14-foot world championship got back on schedule with two races at Newport Bay yesterday. The morning race, the third of the series, was won by the Canadian brothers, Jamie and Hugh Kidd. This was their second successive win.

Philip Morrison, a local sailor who designs boats and also makes the sails for them, was a popular runner-up. Morrison and his crew, Martin Goulet made spectacular

progress round the course. They had been somewhere lower than twelfth at the first mark and gained places on every round.

Willie Henderson and Andrew Squire, who finished third, led for the first two legs, but the Kidds placed past them on the second round and were never again threatened. Chris Benedict and Matt Blake, of the United States, were placed fourth and there were three more Canadian crews in the first eight to finish.

Though Victory '83 had been smart, they had not been smart enough. When the gun went a second later Smith was across the line, level with Bertrand but to leeward, and within a quarter of a mile it was clear that Australia II was pointing some three degrees closer to the wind than Victory.

Barring accidents, the race was effectively over and Willis could put away his cassette recorder with a second-by-second commentary for later analysis and spend the next five fruitless hours watching the start.

The excitement when, after four hours, Pattison inexorably closed in on Bertrand's error downwind, Victory having made a spinnaker change, brought the race alive as they gybed towards

the mark, but I fear it was a vain flourish.

The camaraderie between the British and Australian syndicates is as conspicuous and welcome as the hostility of the NYCRA has been ugly and gauche. Three times during Monday's race de Savary and Bond nosed in towards each other's huge support craft, more expensive even than the racing boats they have built, to exchange greetings and jests.

"Excuse me while I go and see my boys catch up", de Savary shouts, ignoring the six-minute deficit with Nelsonian indifference. The contemporary Victory nearly does catch up. Whatever the outcome, Bond, de Savary and their squads have given the America's Cup a taste of sport as it once was.

The two American syndicates are planning to test their own version of the winged keel fitted to Australia II, in an attempt to win a race which is often over match the Australians in the two weeks that remain before the Cup races begin Barry Pickthall writes.

Johan Valentijn, who designed Liberty, admitted that he had been respecting the idea of winged keels throughout the campaign by the New York Yacht Club to have Australia II's winged keel design outlawed. The club withdrew their protest after Peter de Savary, head of British's Victory syndicate, refused to accept the international Yacht Racing Union had given confidential approval for them a year ago.

Defender was transported to Covehaven at the weekend for design work. Her designer, David Frederick, drove up to investigate, but was prevented from taking a close look.

Victory '83's race against Australia II yesterday was called off because of lack of wind.

Kidds conquer Old World with ease

By John Nicholls

North American crews again did well when the international 14-foot world championship got back on schedule with two races at Newport Bay yesterday. The morning race, the third of the series, was won by the Canadian brothers, Jamie and Hugh Kidd. This was their second successive win.

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progress round the course. They had been somewhere lower than twelfth at the first mark and gained places on every round.

Willie Henderson and Andrew Squire, who finished third, led for the first two legs, but the Kidds placed past them on the second round and were never again threatened. Chris Benedict and Matt Blake, of the United States, were placed fourth and there were three more Canadian crews in the first eight to finish.

Benedict was again to the fore in the afternoon race. This was a re-run of Sunday's cancelled race.

THIRD RACE: Weymouth Trophy (14-foot) 1. Kidds (Canada) 2. Squire (USA) 3. Henderson (USA) 4. Benedict (USA) 5. Blake (USA) 6. Morrison (USA) 7. Goulet (USA) 8. Williams (USA) 9. Smith (USA) 10. Jones (USA) 11. Brown (USA) 12. White (USA) 13. Green (USA) 14. Black (USA) 15. Grey (USA) 16. Gold (USA) 17. Silver (USA) 18. Bronze (USA) 19. Iron (USA) 20. Lead (USA) 21. Tin (USA) 22. Copper (USA) 23. Nickel (USA) 24. Zinc (USA) 25. Cadmium (USA) 26. Mercury (USA) 27. Silver (USA) 28. Gold (USA) 29. Iron (USA) 30. Lead (USA) 31. Tin (USA) 32. Copper (USA) 33. Nickel (USA) 34. Zinc (USA) 35. Cadmium (USA) 36. Mercury (USA) 37. Silver (USA) 38. Gold (USA) 39. Iron (USA) 40. Lead (USA) 41. Tin (USA) 42. Copper (USA) 43. Nickel (USA) 44. Zinc (USA) 45. Cadmium (USA) 46. Mercury (USA) 47. Silver (USA) 48. Gold (USA) 49. Iron (USA) 50. Lead (USA) 51. Tin (USA) 52. Copper (USA) 53. Nickel (USA) 54. Zinc (USA) 55. Cadmium (USA) 56. Mercury (USA) 57. Silver (USA) 58. Gold (USA) 59. Iron (USA) 60. 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The position will be suitable for someone who is seeking a major career involvement and the successful candidate will have achieved a high standard of education and be a very experienced Secretary with excellent speeds in shorthand and typing. The candidate will use modern word-processing equipment on which training will be given.

In addition to secretarial skills the person must be capable of working on their own initiative with the minimum of direction and be able to deal efficiently and diplomatically with people at all levels. The position provides challenge and responsibility and is likely to include integrity, tact and the ability to work under pressure.

A competitive salary in excess of £10,000 will be offered in line with experience, and benefits include 30 working days holiday, luncheon vouchers and season ticket loan.

Please apply to Box 1128H The Times

Directors' Secretaries

PolyGram has interests in records and tapes, music publishing, TV, films and video.

We are looking for several senior secretaries to work for Directors within our International Group Management. A flexible approach, initiative, tact and discretion are all as important as top secretarial skills in these roles. Ideal candidates will have previous experience in the music industry and/or working in a dynamic international environment.

These interesting and varied positions offer excellent salaries, annual bonus, LVs and 25 days annual holiday.

If you are aged 25+ and feel you possess the necessary qualities please write with detailed CV and your daytime phone number to:

Joy Hamlyn, Personnel Officer, PolyGram Leisure Ltd., 15 Saint George Street, London W1R 9DE.

polyGram

MAYFAIR - £8,000 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Successful and rapidly expanding engineering company based in the Middle East is shortly to open a London office and requires a first-class Executive Secretary. French and/or Arabic, WP and telex experience advantageous.

CVs to Dr G Shippam, 45 Oakley Gdns, London, SW3 5QQ.

CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY

Aged 28-32 with excellent shorthand and typing. Pleasant Georgian offices in St. James's. Good salary, lunches and season ticket.

Apply with full details to: Box 1946H The Times

A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE INTO SALES

London Based. In October, a new word processor will be launched - our client needs the right people to sell it. If you have worked in a sales support, trainer/demonstrator role and have a knowledge of word processing you have the chance to break into sales.

You should be 21+, be very confident, have a smart appearance and enjoy people contact. You will be given extensive product and sales training. Your salary will be £14,000 - a car will be supplied after six months. Please ring Anne Green on 01-857 5604 or 951 1734.

Types Recruitment Consultants, Selling WS 01-857 5604 or 951 1734.

PA/SECRETARY

Age 21+ required for UK representative office of overseas consulting engineers in W1. Must be smart, good educational background, ability to liaise with international clients. Good typing, book keeping, telex. Would suit excellent sec. college leaver or second jobber.

SALARY NEGOTIABLE Tel. 01-437 9353

DESIGN COMPANY COVENT GARDEN

require bright, enthusiastic Secretary, 5 yrs' experience. Preferred age 23-27. Sat up to £7,500 for right person. Write with CV to: Jane Hall, Office 118 Ltd, 15 Mecklen St, WC2.

National Charity SW3

Director urgently requires well qualified, experienced Secretary with 5 yrs' experience. Good typing, book keeping, telex. Would suit excellent sec. college leaver or second jobber.

HELEN STONE 01-353 3242 for an application form

College Leaver

I am still looking for a college leaver with a realistic attitude towards working life - some one with at least 10 level education. Spends at least £100 and prepared to operate a VDU while providing a secretarial service for 2 consecutive years.

The job requires someone conscientious and well grounded with a good telephone manner. This is a chance to join one of the UK's leading PR Consultancies at a salary of £10,000. Please apply to: Team Derby, Daniel J. Edwards Ltd, Stanhope House, 300, New Place, London, W2 3BB. Tel: 723 3444.

SENIOR SECRETARY 25-30

with good shorthand typing and general office experience. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Please apply to: The Secretarial Consultancy, 100, Victoria Road, London, W14 7JL. Tel: 723 3444.

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

with 5 yrs' experience. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Please apply to: The Secretarial Consultancy, 100, Victoria Road, London, W14 7JL. Tel: 723 3444.

Foreign Editor's Secretary

The Financial Times newspaper is looking for an experienced Secretary to work with a team of journalists specialising in international news coverage. Work includes providing a confidential secretarial service to the Foreign Editor as well as dealing with administration for the company's overseas correspondents.

Applicants should be over 25, with an 'A' level education and good shorthand/typing skills. Other essential requirements are administrative experience, a good telephone manner, a mature and flexible approach to work and the ability to work well under pressure.

Salary £7,241 pa, 4 weeks' holiday, rising to 5 after one year's service, season ticket loan scheme, subsidised canteen.

Please telephone the Personnel Department on 01-236 9738 for an application form or write giving full details to Susan Smith, Personnel Officer, The Financial Times Ltd, Bankers House, 10 Cannon Street, London, EC4A 3DF.

TRILINGUAL PA

c.£12,000 plus benefits. An international business executive requires a first class PA to set up and run his luxury office in EC2. With the backing of a major US group this is a new venture establishing a world trade. The successful candidate must have French and English shorthand (100 wpm), fluent German together with senior sec experience, aged 28-45.

Other requirements are the ability to act on own initiative, handle work at the highest level, a willingness to attend social evening functions and a current driving licence. This is an exciting, responsible position in a dynamic, professional team.

Please Ring 588 3535 Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants

PA/SECRETARY

West End £7,200. Required by Chairman of small group of companies involved in the music and video industry. The successful applicant will have good shorthand and audio skills and be capable of dealing with a variety of admin duties. Send C.V. to the chairman.

MVS INVESTMENTS LTD. 126 Great Portland St, London W1 Telephone: 01-580 4314

BI-LINGUAL SECS ESPRIT DE CORPS

£7,000. Our Client is keen to appoint 2 special Secretaries with the following attributes: French & English shorthand & typing with excellent presentation & layout. Efficiency in setting up & maintaining systems. Pleasant vigorous & flexible personalities. Ability to work well under pressure. Job satisfaction & superb working conditions are guaranteed as a valued member of a successful team in this international Consultancy.

Call now on 021-5282 Tricia Malcolm, Alfred Marks Recruitment Consultants, Century House 100, Oxford St, London W1.

Executive Secretariat

£8,500. Internationally involved client needs PA/Sec for the top man. High volume of administrative responsibilities requiring the experience of a socially confident PA/Sec. Preferred age 26-35.

629-9863 415-417 Oxford St, W.1.

SIX OF THE BEST!

We need top class secretaries for our rapidly expanding Temporary work force - our standards are high & we would expect yours to be the same. Long & short term assignments available. Some for secretarial positions as well, providing you are 25/30 wpm & accurate.

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PA Sec (sh/aud) to senior partner + personal function. Sat. up to £10,000 pa. PR CO W2. Sec/PA for chief executive, no shorthand needed, some responsibility. Sat. £17,500.

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Are looking for a present respondent with good typing (65-80), Sat. £5,000 + bonus.

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Early bird? Secretary to partner. Slow start + ability to cope under pressure. £5,000 + profit share. RING SALLY OWENS on 255 8427 4 PONT STREET, LONDON SW1

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Acton W3 £7,000 neg. We are a young and fast moving company. Suppliers to the film and TV world. Answer yes/no to the following questions:

* Have you min. 10 years experience? Y/N
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* Have you fast shorthand and typing? Y/N
* Are you able to handle responsibility? Y/N

If you have scored 5 'y's' and want to apply for an interesting and varied position. Please call: LES KING on 01-743 0741

experience in advertising/PR work will be useful.

WORD PROCESSING SUPERVISOR/ OPERATOR

Progressive medium sized West End firm of Solicitors requires a supervisor for their busy WP department. Legal background, organisational ability and WP experience essential.

Salary £28,000 pa. Tel Mr O'Neill 01-439 6061. No Agencies

BOOKKEEPER/ SECRETARY

Required for City office. Applicants should have experience in trial balance and be able to prepare cash flow and profit and loss statements. They must also be able to carry out their own correspondence on accounts, invoices, and other essential. Flexible approach to work required together with a willingness to meet with other duties.

Apply Box 1127H The Times.

SECRETARY - W.1

For one of London's leading firms of accountants. A small company in very central location. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and will be required to handle a high volume of correspondence. The position offers a competitive salary and excellent career prospects.

Please telephone 01-499 0342

Super Secretaries also on page 22

SECRETARY TO DEPUTY COLLEGE SECRETARY

required in the administration department of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 27 Sussex Place, Regents Park NW1 4RG

Good shorthand & typing ability required. Experience in the use of word processors and an interest in computers an advantage. Good working conditions. Free lunches & 4 weeks annual leave. Starting salary according to age and experience within range £5,267 - £5,791. Subject to review 1st January.

Tel: 262 5425 for job description & application form.

SYNERGY COLLEGE LEAVERS

£5,000 - £6,000. Opportunities exist in public relations and advertising for first rate college leavers with at least 10 'O' level passes. Within a dynamic, active team you will be able to gain experience in a wide range of advertising and public relations work. Salary £5,000 - £6,000. Write to: Synergy, 100, Victoria Road, London, W14 7JL. Tel: 723 3444.

DOGSBODY

Enthusiastic Receptionist/ Typist needed for hectic but fun Advertising Agency in Covent Garden. Must be prepared to do anything. Accurate typing essential as well as ability and keenness to become involved in all aspects of agency life. Salary £5,000. Telephone: Laura Newton 836 3093 (No Agencies).

RESEARCH ANALYST

with good typing for SW1 security firm. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office and will be required to handle a high volume of correspondence. The position offers a competitive salary and excellent career prospects.

SEC WITH POTENTIAL

This is a responsible position with potential in a busy dept of a leading Public Co. (W1) with a progressive attitude reflected by an exceptional benefits package and a young friendly atmosphere. Probably with a level, you should be 18-22 with 1 year's secretarial experience and a warm, outgoing personality. Salary c. £5,000 + bonus.

Contact Barry Englestone on 01-681 1005 (Recruitment Consultants)

Price, Jamieson & Partners Ltd

ANTICIPATE ADMIN ASSISTANT For small publishing/marketing research consultancy in W1. Must be fast, accurate typist and able to handle a high volume of correspondence. Work involves secretarial, typing, and other essential. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Please apply to: Price, Jamieson & Partners Ltd, 100, Victoria Road, London, W14 7JL. Tel: 723 3444.

COLLEGE LEAVER

Senior Secretary 25-30 with good shorthand typing and general office experience. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Please apply to: The Secretarial Consultancy, 100, Victoria Road, London, W14 7JL. Tel: 723 3444.

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

with 5 yrs' experience. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Please apply to: The Secretarial Consultancy, 100, Victoria Road, London, W14 7JL. Tel: 723 3444.

Land for Sale

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Super Secretaries (continued from page 11)

TWO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Young and rapidly expanding international investment bank based in NYC are looking for:

Secretary to Director
General secretarial and administrative duties, accurate shorthand and typing combined with some know-how and initiative. \$5,500 neg + bonus.

Executive
This job would suit somebody who is well versed with a good telephone manner and enjoys meeting people. Some typing. \$5,000 + bonus.

FRENCH/ENGLISH SECRETARY

Continuing Engine Company requires a bilingual secretary for their Marketing Department. Good secretarial skills and fluent French required. Willingness to work in friendly team. WP skills an advantage.

New Mexico/NW London
Phone Carol Reid
01-949 6171

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01-236 6592

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INTERVIEWING TEMPS. We have lots of interviewing assignments in Minneapolis, the Washington area and City. Many are permanent positions. We would like to see your resume as well as your references. Write to: Waltons & Morse, 1000 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. 207-72947. (We are also in New York City, New Jersey, and San Francisco.)

21 Beauchamp Place, London SW5.

LEGAL ADVISORS

WALTONS & MORSE

have vacancies for experienced solicitors (or barristers prepared to qualify) to assist with their shipping and commercial litigation work. Successful applicants are likely to have had one or more years post-qualification experience in the litigation departments of other City firms.

The Property Department has a vacancy for a solicitor with one or more years post-qualification experience of commercial property work.

Applications or requests for further information should be made to:

The Personnel Secretary, W.I.

The Partnership Secretary, Waltons & Morse, Plantation House, 31/35 Fenchurch Street, London EC3M 3NN.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Lee

BBC 1

- 6.00 **Celestial A.M.** News, sport, weather, travel information.
- 6.30 **Breakfast Time.** Frank Bough and Sue Cook provide the chat between news at 6.30, 7.00, 8.00, 8.30; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45, 8.15; sport at 6.45, 7.15, 8.15; Glenn Christian in the kitchen between 8.45 and 9.00.
- 9.00 **Scouty Doo Where Are You?** 9.20 **Blue Peter** Goes Silver. Highlights of the 1978 Egyptian expedition to swim the Red Sea, climb the Pyramids and be elected by an unimpressed camel. 9.45 **Cartoon Time** (10.00) with the Wags. 10.25 **Take Hart**. 10.25 **Closedown.**
- 1.00 **News**, weather with Richard Whitmore and Fern Britton. 1.27 **Financial Report** and 1.30 **King of the Hill**. 1.35 **Scine-e-Scine.**
- 1.45 **The New Foresters.** Woodman Cliff Fennell and wood sculptor Greta Hopkinson work in the New Forest.
- 2.15 **Play Pleasure Cove** (1978) Suffice it to say that this US TV-made film set at a hectic holiday paradise stars Tom Jones in a non-singing role as a roughie character. Constance Forslund, Joan Hackert and Harry Guardino also appeared in what was meant to lead to a series halfway between the *Love Boat* and *Fantasy Island*.
- 3.50 **The Flying Boat.** During the First World War they were used to patrol the North Sea, and, later, were flown as far as India.
- 4.20 **Play School** (as on BBC 2, 10.00am). 4.40 **Boys and Girls** cartoon comedy with more than a whiff of *Bit of It* (5.05) John Craven's *Newsround*. 5.10 **The Children of Destiny.** The 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet (1).
- 5.40 **News**, weather.
- 6.00 **South East at Six.**
- 6.25 **Super Soap.** Black Orchid. Dr Peter Davidson comes back down to Earth, circa 1925, in this two-part episode set at a country manor (1).
- 7.00 **The Show Me Show.** Those who are less than impressed with the superficiality of this self-styled popular science circus will perceive some sort of poetic justice in this edition, which instals presenters Maggie Philbin and John Craven as shop window dummies.
- 7.30 **Play: Hanging by a Thread** (1978) The title refers to the disabled cable car, still dangling 7,000 feet up a mountainside, though it could easily describe the over-stretched script. This uses Patty Duke Austin, Bert Convy, Sam Groom, Donna Mills and Cameron Mitchell.
- 9.00 **News**, weather.
- 9.25 **The Life and Times of David Lloyd George.** Penultimate chapter of Elaine Morgan's incurably romantic drama and yet another case of consecutive scheduling on BBC this week. No less than 10 programmes today either carry on from yesterday, or continue tomorrow.
- 10.00 **News**, weather.
- 10.10 **Flamingo Road.** The week's second visit to the Road to the Americas. *Coronation Street* produces a disaster. Sam and Fielding nose dive into the alligator-infested Everglades.
- 12.00 **Weather and closedown.**

TV-am

- 6.25 **Good Morning Britain.** Nick Owen and Anne Diamond back again with news at 6.25, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.55; sport at 6.45, 7.45; competitions at 7.25, 8.25; David Bowie video at 7.55; *Star Frontiers* at 8.05 with Gary Glitter; Chris Tarrant in *Royal* at 8.50, 9.00, 9.15, 9.45; Roland Rat in York from 9.00-9.25.
- 12.00 **News**, weather with Richard Whitmore and Fern Britton. 1.27 **Financial Report** and 1.30 **King of the Hill**. 1.35 **Scine-e-Scine.**
- 1.45 **The New Foresters.** Woodman Cliff Fennell and wood sculptor Greta Hopkinson work in the New Forest.
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- 12.00 **Weather and closedown.**

ITV/LONDON

- 9.25 **Thames News Headlines.** Followed by *Sesame Street*, 10.25 **Science International.** Current research. 10.35 **Sport**. *Cartoon*. 11.00 **Island** with the Wags. 11.25 **Take Hart**. 10.25 **Closedown.**
- 1.00 **News**, weather with Richard Whitmore and Fern Britton. 1.27 **Financial Report** and 1.30 **King of the Hill**. 1.35 **Scine-e-Scine.**
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Lucella Santos, Fabio Junior: Romeo and Juliet (Channel 4, 9.00 pm)

● In **ROCKY CIRCUS** (BBC2, 7.30pm), Jack Pizzey cleverly chose as the subject of his first shot as a producer, resilient rock star Gary Glitter. He really couldn't fail. Unlike showman Gary Glitter, who chose Glitter to save his fast-fading travelling circus. He couldn't win. In this cruelly enjoyable documentary, Pizzey's fearless cameras close in as the aging pop star rehearses desperately against the clock for his most curious come-back (at the end of a fly-wire, blue some grotesque Peter Pan). The idea was to mix the trappings of Glitter's gaudy, reverberating rock show with the trapeze, clowns, acrobats, jugglers, horses and other traditional circus attractions of Cottle's Circus, for whom it is usually a case of getting the Big Top into camp. Here, however, it was more of getting camp into the Big Top. But Glitter is,

to his eternal credit, if not his creditworthiness, a graffer and, from all appearances, a good sport, even when he's in danger of losing.

● **CHILE - TEN YEARS OF A STRONG MAN** (Channel 4, 10.55pm) is an economic portrait of Chile after a decade of the dictator Pinochet, and it's not a pretty sight. On 11th September Street, built in Santiago to commemorate the right-wing coup that dispatched the popular Allende administration, office blocks are empty and shops boarded up. Modern details are also ghostly, because no-one can afford the houses. Fabienne Serban-Schreiber's independently-made film also bears tales of middle class housewife digging roots in the capital so that they can be

eligible for social security. A piece of obviously committed film-making (in collaboration with the exiled author Carmen Castillo) this impassioned study lays the blame squarely on Pinochet's monetarist shoulders.

● Queen Victoria would not have been amused by **BLIND BY THE LIGHT** (Radio 4, 3.00pm), the Afternoon Theatre by Harry Duffin. A bored teenager is giving her Majesty (or her statue at least), a lethargic lathering when he meets a girl, unemployed and unimpressed by the Youth Opportunities Scheme that has brought him into such unaccustomed intimacy with the ruling class. The young couple devise a protest against unemployment, but ambitious reporter's pranks lead to tragedy. Colin Meredith and Sue Jenkins play the youngsters.

TONIGHT'S PROM

- 7.30 **Beethoven: Overture** (BBC2).
- 8.40 **Prokofiev: Symphony No 5 in B flat major.** Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, conductor Sir Charles Groves. On Radio 3, in stereo.
- 9.05 **This Week's Composer: Beethoven.** The works include the Piano Sonata in F minor, Op. 2, No 1; *Achilles and the Centaur* in E flat for piano and wind instruments; *Achilles and the Centaur* in E flat for piano and wind instruments. There are also songs performed by the baritone Dutch-French singer, Jacques Lecoq.
- 10.00 **Choral Evening** from the Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin in Tewkesbury, sung by the Aldwyn Consort of Voices.
- 10.50 **Music: Pachelbel's choral cantata, 'The Little Fiddler' (BWV 1008) and 'The Little Fiddler' (BWV 1008).** The Little Fiddler (BWV 1008) and 'The Little Fiddler' (BWV 1008).
- 11.20 **Piano Trio: The Trio Zingare** play the Haydn in E major and the John Haydn in E major.
- 11.55 **Strauss: a recital by Margaret Marshall (soprano) and the BBC Chorus.** Strauss: a recital by Margaret Marshall (soprano) and the BBC Chorus.
- 1.00 **Haydn: Quartets: The Choralists.** Haydn: Quartets: The Choralists.
- 1.05 **Kleiber and Korbel: Correlli (Concerto Grosso, Op 6 No 8).** Kleiber and Korbel: Correlli (Concerto Grosso, Op 6 No 8).
- 1.20 **Revel: (singing) 'The Song of the Interval' (revised) at 2.45.** Revel: (singing) 'The Song of the Interval' (revised) at 2.45.
- 1.35 **Back: William Bamber (bass) and Nicholas Kraemer (bass).** Back: William Bamber (bass) and Nicholas Kraemer (bass).
- 1.40 **Choral Evening: from the Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin in Tewkesbury, sung by the Aldwyn Consort of Voices.** Choral Evening: from the Abbey Church of St Mary the Virgin in Tewkesbury, sung by the Aldwyn Consort of Voices.
- 1.55 **Manly for Pleasures: Natalie** When introduces works by composers such as Strauss, Ireland, and Lisztovsky (Variations on a Roccoco theme).
- 2.00 **Hubert and Wolf: Songs sung by Friedrich Schorr and John McCormack.** Hubert and Wolf: Songs sung by Friedrich Schorr and John McCormack.
- 2.30 **Piano: Part one of the 'The F major' (Op 37).** Piano: Part one of the 'The F major' (Op 37).
- 2.45 **Piano: Part two of the 'The F major' (Op 37).** Piano: Part two of the 'The F major' (Op 37).
- 3.00 **Music: The Choralists.** Music: The Choralists.
- 3.05 **Music: The Choralists.** Music: The Choralists.
- 3.10 **Music: The Choralists.** Music: The Choralists.
- 3.15 **Music: The Choralists.** Music: The Choralists.
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